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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-043 *4 March 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League—Israel 'Main Source of Nuclear Threat' *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab Affairs: League Chief Stresses Need for Arab Reconciliation *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Jericho Radio Reports Jerusalem 3 Mar Explosion *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Terms Jerusalem Blast 'Catastrophe' *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: Commentary Denounces Jerusalem Bus Bombing *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: PNC Speaker Condemns Jerusalem Bus Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Tibi Reacts to Bombing, Expresses 'Shame' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio Hails Jerusalem 'Heroic Operation' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas' al-Faluji Urges Halt To Killing of Civilians *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 3
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Promises 'Serious Steps' To Curb Jerusalem Bombers *[Jericho VOP]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: Further Reactions to Bombing Reported *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Outlaws Hamas, Islamic Jihad Military Wings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Senior Hamas Officials on Possibility of Cease-Fire *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Mar]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, Mubarak Discuss Jerusalem Explosion *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: 'Engineer's Disciples' Assume Responsibility for Attack *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: 'Engineer's Disciples' Announce 3 Month Cease-Fire *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 6
Palestinian Affairs: Statement Condemns Jerusalem Blast, Bans Armed Groups *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: 'Text' of Leaflet Claiming Responsibility for Bus Bombing *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: Security Deploys Armored Vehicles for 'Crackdown' on Groups *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: Police Begin Confiscating Weapons From Hamas *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Mar]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Discussing Jerusalem Explosion With Egypt's al-Baz *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, U.S. Consul-General Discuss Jerusalem Bombing *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: Israel Tightens 'Military Siege' of Palestinian Territories *[Jericho VOP]* . 8
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Baz Confers With 'Arafat on Peace Developments *[MENA]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: PA Statement Bans Hamas, Jihad, DFLP, PFLP Paramilitaries *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE 3 Mar]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: Suspect in Jerusalem Bus Bombing Identified *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE 3 Mar]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: PA Officials on Antiterror Fight, Need To Continue Peace *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: 'Terrorist' Planners, Perpetrators Said Gone Underground *[Jerusalem TV]* 10
Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Denounces Jerusalem Bombing as 'Irresponsible' *[Jericho VOP]* ... 11
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Phone Calls From Christopher, Ross *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses People *[Gaza TV]* 11
Palestinian Affairs: Bombings Believed Perpetrated by Hamas Splinter Faction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12

Palestinian Affairs: National Security Council Supports 'Arafat's Measures *[Jericho VOP]* 13
Palestinian Affairs: Palestinian Council Member on Bombings, Impact *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Statement Condemns Jerusalem Blast, Warns Hamas *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Palestinian Affairs: PNC Member Allowed To Enter Territories, Condemns Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Figure Proposes Initiative for Agreement With Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Palestinian Affairs: Police Arrest Over 120 Hamas Members Since 3 Mar Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Palestinian Affairs: 'Thousands' of Gazans, Israeli Arabs Protest Against Terror *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses Rally, Receives Clinton's Message *[Jericho VOP]* 16
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun: —Hamas Members Receiving Orders From Iran, Syria *[Jericho VOP]* 16
Palestinian Affairs: Splinter Group Condemns Jerusalem Explosion *[Jericho VOP]* 16
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio Reports Tel Aviv Explosion *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 17
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Leader on 'Tense' Relations With PA *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 29 Feb]* 17

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Syria-Israel Talks Postponed Following Bombings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Arab-Israeli Talks: Damascus Radio Reports U.S. Statement on Maryland Talks 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Iraqi Envoy Briefs President on Talks With UN *[Algiers TV]* 18
Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Rejects Ghali Statement on UN Resolution *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Calls Talks 'Exceptionally Positive' *[INA]* 18
Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Concludes Visit, Departs *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Algeria: FLN Committee Statement Condemns Violence, Hails Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Algeria: FLN Committee Calls For National Reconciliation *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Algeria: Zeroual Makes New Presidency, Foreign Affairs Appointments *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Algeria: Trade Union Confederation Postpones 3 Mar Strike *[Algiers TV]* 19
Algeria: Mutilated Body of Kidnapped Cameraman Found *[Algiers TV]* 19
Algeria: Security Forces Kill 28 'Criminals' *[Algiers Radio]* 20

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak Contacts Peres, 'Arafat on Bombing *[MENA]* 20
Egypt: Musa Condemns Jerusalem Bombing, Signs Accord With Slovenia *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Egypt: Musa Blames 'Extremists on Both Sides' for Bus Bombing *[MENA]* 20
Egypt: Musa on Palestinian-Israeli Talks, Arab, Russian Ties *[MENA]* 20
Egypt: Bulgarian Envoy Denies 'Terrorist' al-Zawahiri in Bulgaria *[MENA]* 21
Egypt: New 'Terrorist Movement' Uncovered in al-Sharqiyah *[AL-AHRAM 27 Feb]* 21
Egypt: World Urged To Support Mideast Peace, Contain Violence *[Cairo Radio]* 22
Egypt: PLO's Qaddumi Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 22
Egypt: Minister—Japan To Participate in Prospecting for Oil, Gas *[MENA]* 23
Egypt: Labor Official Criticizes Privatization Plans *[AL-'ARABI 26 Feb]* 23

Libya

Libya: Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets With Cuban Official *[Tripoli TV]* 24

Libya: Cuban Official Reiterates Support for Regime *[Tripoli TV]* 25

Morocco

Morocco: King Receives 'Congratulation Message' From Saddam Husayn *[Rabat Radio]* 25

Sudan

Sudan: Rebel Faction Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 25
Sudan: Movement Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire *[Nairobi TV]* 25
Sudan: Armed Forces Spokesman Welcomes Rebels' Cease-Fire *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Sudan: Government Declares Cease-Fire in South *[AFP]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: Shiite Muslim Unrest Continues; 70 More Arrested *[AFP]* 27
Bahrain: Tehran Daily Reports Bomb Explosion in Manama Suburb *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 26 Feb]* 27
Bahrain: State Minister Comments on Riots, Dispute With Qatar *[WAKH]* 27

Kuwait

Kuwait: Parliament Seeks Probe of Defense Ministry Corruption *[ARAB TIMES 14 Feb]* 28
Kuwait: Details on Alleged Defense Ministry Food Scandal Published *[ARAB TIMES 16 Feb]* 28
Kuwait: Qatar Asks for Extradition of Coup Plotter *[AFP]* 29
Kuwait: Security Authorities Accuse Woman of Spying for Iraq *[ARAB TIMES 14 Feb]* 29
Kuwait: Iraqi Opposition Leader on POW's, Oil Sales, Baghdad Regime *[ARAB TIMES 16 Feb]* 29

Qatar

Qatar: Member of Ruling Family Found Dead in Cairo *[MENA]* 30
Qatar: Ethiopian Government Denunciation of 'Plot' Reported *[Doha Radio]* 31
Qatar: State Renews Support for Peace, Condemns Terrorism *[Doha Radio]* 31
Qatar: Paper Published Amir's 'Statements,' Not Interview *[London AL-HAYAH 3 Mar]* 31

Yemen

Yemen: 'Arab Says 'All Necessary Means' To Be Used if Hanish Talks Fail *[SPA]* 31
Yemen: Official Criticizes Eritrea's Stand on Dispute *[AL-ITTIHAD 28 Feb]* 31
Yemen: Eritrean Coverage of Conflict Over Islands *[cross-reference]* 33

IRAQ

Iraq: Opposition Radio Cited on Forces Build-Up on Kuwait Border *[IRNA]* 34
Iraq: Opposition Sources Cited on U.S. Troops' Northward Movement *[IRNA]* 34
Iraq: Kurdish Radio Reports Iraqi Forces' Attacks *[Voice of the People]* 34
Iraq: SAIRI's al-Hakim Comments on Husayn Kamil Aftermath *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Mar]* 34
Iraq: Opposition Figure Views Continuing Killings *[Tehran International]* 36
Iraq: UN's Butrus-Ghali Said Working for Successful Talks *[INA]* 37
Iraq: Ekeus on 'Very Important' Iraqi Statements *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Mar]* 37
Iraq: Interview With Iraqi Nuclear Scientist *[AL-MAJALLAH 8 Jan]* 39
Iraq: Ministry Supports Cuba's 'Right' To Defend Sovereignty *[INA]* 42
Iraq: Ramsey Clark Commends Saddam Husayn, People's Resilience *[INA]* 43

ISRAEL

Israel: Protest Lodged After Hamas Attack in Settlement Foiled *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44

Israel: Over 10 Killed in Jerusalem Bus Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Israel: Death Toll Rises to 20 in Jerusalem Bus Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Israel: Weizman Urges Suspension of Peace Process Following Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Israel: Unidentified Caller Says Hamas Responsible for Jerusalem Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Israel: Minister Sne Urges 'Pinpointed' Action Against Hamas *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 44
Israel: Further on Jerusalem Attack; Peres Visits Site, Convenes Cabinet *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Israel: Deputy Defense Minister on Terror, Suspending Peace Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 46
Israel: Police Chief Urges Jerusalem 'Flooded' With Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Israel: Ben-Eli'ezer Urges Immediate Separation, Security Plans *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Israel: Israeli Arabs Urge 'Arafat To Act Against 'Terrorism' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Israel: Peres on Separation Plan; 'Arafat Outlawing Armed Groups *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 3 Mar]* 47
Israel: Cabinet Declares War on Terrorism, Discusses Security Plans *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Israel: Anonymous Caller Names Jerusalem Suicide Bomber *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Israel: Death Toll in Jerusalem Bus Attack Reaches 19 *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Israel: Cabinet Adopts Separation Plan, Other Security Measures *[Jerusalem TV]* 48
Israel: Labor Sources — Peres Opposed to National Unity Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Israel: Netanyahu Proposes Antiterror Plan; Parties React *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 49
Israel: Peres News Conference on Jerusalem Bus Blast *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Israel: Netanyahu Calls For Restraint, Unity *[Jerusalem TV]* 53
Israel: IDF Prohibits Israelis From Entering PA Areas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Israel: Former GSS Chief: Bombing Not Done by Small Terror Band *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Israel: Shahal Elaborates on Security Deployment, Separation *[Tel Aviv TV]* 55
Israel: More Police, 1,000 Soldiers To Be Deployed in Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Israel: Large Crowds Rally in Jerusalem; Mayor Urges Restraint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Israel: Peres To Answer National Emergency Government Proposal Soon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Israel: Peres-'Arafat Talk; Political Process Linked to Terror *[Jerusalem TV]* 57
Israel: Baraq on Suspending Talks With PA, IDF Freedom *[Jerusalem TV]* 57
Israel: Peres Adviser: No Need for PA Approval To Enter Autonomy *[Jerusalem TV]* 59
Israel: Security Strip To Separate West Bank From Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Israel: List of Hamas Offices Operating in Jerusalem Given to Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Israel: Angry Protests Against Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Israel: Talks With Syria Expected To Resume 5 Mar *[HA'ARETZ 4 Mar]* 59
Israel: IDF Troops Raid Bus Bombers' Refugee Camp Near Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Israel: Government Spokesman, Ambassador View Bus Bomb in Jerusalem *[London BBC TV]* 60
Israel: 'Terrorist' Shot in Hebron After Attacking Soldiers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 61
Israel: IDF Undertaking 'Unprecedented' Sanctions in al-Fawwar Camp *[Jerusalem Radio]* 61
Israel: Shin Bet Warns of More Attacks, Notes 'Distress' *[MA'ARIV 4 Mar]* 62
Israel: Foreign Ministry Seeking International Pressure on 'Arafat *[MA'ARIV 4 Mar]* 62
Israel: Hamas Network in Jerusalem Believed Aided Suicide Bombers *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Mar]* 62
Israel: More Details on Hebron Stabbing; Settlers React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 63
Israel: Arab Ambassadors Urged To Fight Terror, Influence 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 63
Israel: Explosion in Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, Many Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 63
Israel: Explosion Believed Car Bomb; Many Dead, Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* 64
Israel: 10 Killed, 30 Wounded in Dizengoff Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 64
Israel: Peres Calls Emergency Cabinet Session *[Jerusalem Radio]* 64
Israel: Bomber Blew Up Self When Refused Entry to Shopping Center *[Jerusalem Radio]* 64
Israel: 20 Fatalities, Over 50 Wounded in Dizengoff Attack *[Jerusalem TV]* 64
Israel: Unidentified Caller Says 'Terrorist' Act by Hamas Member From Ramallah *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 65
Israel: Correspondent Describes Expected Measures Against Hamas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 65

Israel: Peres Comments on Tel Aviv, Jerusalem Attacks *[Jerusalem TV]* 65

JORDAN

Jordan: King Denounces 'All Forms of Extremism' *[Amman Radio]* 68
Jordan: King Expresses 'Anger,' 'Disgust' Over Bus Bombing *[Amman Radio]* 68
Jordan: Prime Minister Convey's 'Heartfelt' Condolences to Peres *[Amman Radio]* 68
Jordan: Minister Denounces Jerusalem Bombing as 'Barbaric Act' *[Amman Radio]* 68
Jordan: Information Minister Condemns Jerusalem Bombing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 69
Jordan: Prince Hasan Phones 'Arafat, Voices Support *[Amman Radio]* 69
Jordan: Writer Assails 'Schizophrenic' Syrian Stand on Bombings *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Mar]* 69
Jordan: King Husayn Meets KDP Representatives in London *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 70
Jordan: Opposition's Rejection of Iraqi Defectors Caused Return *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Mar]* 70
Jordan: Iraq Ratifies 'Commercial Protocol Agreement' With Amman *[AL-RA'Y 2 Mar]* 71
Jordan: Prince Hasan Phones 'Arafat, Voices Support *[Amman Radio]* 72
Jordan: Human Rights Group Criticizes 'Increasing Violations' *[London International]* 72

LEBANON

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Promises Punishment for 'Israeli Crimes' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 73
Lebanon: Nabih Birri Urges 'National Day of General Closure' 14 Mar *[Beirut Radio]* 73
Lebanon: French Minister—Security Situation 'Stable' *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Mar]* 73
Lebanon: Government Deems Articles Offensive, Sues 2 Papers *[Beirut Radio]* 73
Lebanon: Poll Shows 12% of Public Support Government *[AL-DIYAR 18 Feb]* 74

SYRIA

Syria: Newspaper 'Surprised' by U.S. Charges of Terrorism *[SANA]* 75
Syria: Minister Salman Blames Israeli Attitude for Bus Bombing *[AFP]* 76
Syria: Minister on Peace Talks, Relations With Turkey *[SANA]* 76
Syria: Sources Cited on 'Lack of Progress' in Talks With Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 77
Syria: Press Criticizes Israel Over Peace Talks Stalemate *[Damascus Radio]* 77
Syria: Papers Critical of Israeli Likud Leader's Statements *[Damascus Radio]* 78
Syria: Radio Says Peace Will Help 'Calm' Regional Situation *[Damascus Radio]* 79
Syria: Damascus, Tehran Back Iraqi Opposition Meeting *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Mar]* 80

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Departs for 'Friendly' Visit to Iran *[Kabul Radio]* 82
Afghanistan: Pakistan Accused of Sending Taleban To Overthrow Kabul *[IRNA]* 82
Afghanistan: Taleban Rockets Hit Kabul; 2 Houses Damaged *[Kabul Radio]* 82
Afghanistan: Taleban Continues Rocket Assault Against Kabul *[Tehran International]* 82
Afghanistan: Government-Held Villages Reported Captured in Samangan *[Message of Freedom]* 83
Afghanistan: Heavy Fighting in North as Factions Vie for Power *[AFP]* 83
Afghanistan: Kabul Under Rocket Attack by Taleban Forces *[Kabul Radio]* 83
Afghanistan: 10 Taleban Troops Killed in Clash in Maydan Shar *[Kabul Radio]* 83
Afghanistan: 'Heavy Fighting' Between Hezb-e Eslami, Dostam Factions *[Kabul Radio]* 83
Afghanistan: Commanders in Eastern Provinces To Jointly Resist Taleban *[Tehran International]* 84
Afghanistan: Taleban, People Clash in Herat Over Killing of Youth *[Tehran Radio]* 84

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Zia Makes Proposals for Crisis Resolution *[Dhaka Radio]* 84

Bangladesh: Opposition Rejects Prime Minister's Latest Offer *[AFP]* 86

India

India: Prime Minister Comments on 'Utter Failure' of NPT *[Delhi Radio]* 87
India: Pakistani National Arrested in Delhi for Spying for ISI *[Delhi Radio]* 87
India: CBI To Report Only to High Court; Politicians Granted Bail *[Delhi Radio]* 87

Iran

Iran: Jerusalem Bomb Explosions Show Failure of 'Compromise' *[Tehran Radio]* 88
Iran: Commentary on Israel Warning to 'Arafat To Disarm 'Combatants' *[Tehran Radio]* 88
Iran: Paper on NATO 'Terrorist' Operations in Bosnia *[RESALAT 17 Feb]* 89
Iran: Afghan President, Delegation Arrive for Talks *[IRNA]* 90
Iran: Rafsanjani Holds Talks With Visiting Afghan President *[IRNA]* 90
Iran: Meetings With Afghan President, Delegation Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 90
Iran: Political Group Issues Statement on Elections *[ABRAR 25 Feb]* 91
Iran: Majles Deputy—Kargozaran Should Form Proper Legal Party *[RESALAT 27 Feb]* 92
Iran: Daily Calls For Review of Rejected Candidates' Credentials *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 22 Feb]* 93
Iran: Yazdi Delivers Second Friday Prayers Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 94

Pakistan

Pakistan: Iranian Minister Apprised of Indian 'Threat' in Region *[Islamabad Radio]* 96
Pakistan: Editorial Criticizes U.S. Ambassador's Suggestions *[NAWA-I-WAQT 1 Mar]* 96
Pakistan: India Warned Against Building Fence on Jammu Border *[Islamabad Radio]* 97
Pakistan: Indian Force Shoots 'Without Any Provocation' in Jammu Region *[Islamabad TV]* 97
Pakistan: Commentary Decries Indian Violation of Working Boundary *[Islamabad Radio]* 97
Pakistan: Bhutto Discusses Terrorism, Nuclear Issue, Kashmir *[MENA]* 98
Pakistan: Government Defends Antinarcotics Efforts *[THE NEWS 4 Mar]* 99
Pakistan: Kashmiri Leaders Vow To Continue Struggle, Oppose Elections *[Islamabad Radio]* 99
Pakistan: Sindh Chief Says Government Authority Restored in Karachi *[Islamabad TV]* 100

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League—Israel 'Main Source of Nuclear Threat'

NC0303111996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—An Arab League report says that Israel is the main source of nuclear threat in the Middle East and its nuclear power poses a threat to regional security. The report, which the Arab League secretariat general will submit to the Arab foreign ministers at their upcoming meeting on 13 March, explains that "Israel continues to show bad intentions despite the positive Arab attitude toward freeing the Middle East from all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons."

The report affirms "the need for Israel to endorse a draft regional treaty to scrap all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and to sign the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]." The report indicates that the aim of the draft regional treaty is to persuade Israel to join it. The report adds that the draft regional treaty represents a bargaining chip that can be used in the negotiations for a comprehensive peace solution. [passage omitted]

The Arab League has received Iraq's and Libya's remarks and reservations regarding the draft regional treaty. Libya's remarks mention that preparing a regional treaty is premature unless Israel joins the NPT and other relevant international agreements.

Inter-Arab Affairs: League Chief Stresses Need for Arab Reconciliation

NC0203210696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA) — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that achieving Arab unity and improving inter-Arab relations is the main concern of the Arab League Secretariat.

He told MENA that failure to achieve Arab reconciliation means wasting major chances to revitalize collective Arab action. He noted the importance of the 13 March session of the Arab League Council, which will discuss prospects for common Arab action in light of successive international developments.

He said a delay in achieving reconciliation negatively affects the role of the Arab League at a time when Arabs, more than ever before, need to take a unified position and adopt a judicious common view toward regional and international developments, especially since many plans and views are being offered to alter the situation in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Jericho Radio Reports Jerusalem 3 Mar Explosion

JN0303055996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0504 GMT 3 Mar 96

[From "A New Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosion occurred in Yafo Street in Jerusalem a short while ago. According to AFP, the explosion left at least 10 people dead and many injured. The Israeli radio reported that the huge explosion occurred on a no. 18 bus.

Israeli Army and Police forces are surrounding the scene, while ambulances are moving the dead and wounded. We will keep you informed on the latest developments related to this incident.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Terms Jerusalem Blast 'Catastrophe'

JN0303064896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosion occurred in Yafo Street in Jerusalem this morning. According to AFP, 20 were killed and scores wounded. The Israeli radio said all the wounded were transferred to hospitals and police units cordoned off the area. The radio added that the explosion occurred on a no. 18 bus. Eyewitnesses said the strong explosion completely burned the bus, scattering debris over a large area.

President Yasir 'Arafat described today's Jerusalem explosion as a catastrophe threatening the peace process. In a statement to the Israeli radio a short while ago, conveyed to the radio by ['Arafat's] adviser Ahmad al-Tibi, President 'Arafat said the perpetrators of the operation are acting against the Palestinian people's higher interests and they do not want to see an Israeli withdrawal from the city of Hebron. President 'Arafat said: We are sharing the pain and we have to be on the level of the confrontation — the confrontation of the enemies of peace and all criminal acts that kill innocent people and threaten the peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister is currently holding consultations with his ministers and military commanders to study the measures that should be taken in the wake of the latest Jerusalem explosion. The Israeli authorities decided to cancel the partial lifting of its military closure of the Palestinian territories, including the admission of humanitarian cases.

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The Israeli Council of Ministers will discuss during its weekly session today plans to intensify the Israeli military siege of the Palestinian territories and guarantee Israeli security in buses. Uri Or, Israeli deputy defense minister, will present detailed plans to ensure security on buses. The plans include the deployment of a large number of security men on all bus lines, in addition to separation between the two sides of the green line. Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer called for suspending the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and imposing a full siege on the Palestinian territories without exception. Ben-Eli'ezer said Israel should firmly reply to the perpetrators of operations. Israeli Health Minister Efrayim Sne said the military siege cannot prevent the explosions.

Palestinian Affairs: Commentary Denounces Jerusalem Bus Bombing

JN0303070696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary from "A New Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosion that occurred this morning in Jerusalem comes at the time when the Palestinian National Authority is still working to eliminate the aftermaths of the previous operations, which forced Israel to take tough positions to impose a siege over our areas and stop the negotiations. Such measures threaten the Palestinian national interests.

When we observe such acts, it becomes evident that their main objective is to pressure Israel and give it excuses to escalate its confrontation against us and escalate its repressive measures against our people. Every one knows the extent of the efforts made by the Palestinian National Authority under the leadership of brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on the Arab and international levels to calm the angry positions of Israel, which took such operations as an excuse to mete out collective punishment to our people. These intensive efforts achieved some results. However, today's explosion in Jerusalem undermines all these efforts. Therefore, we denounce this act which does not serve the interests of our people. Instead, it will obstruct our people from fulfilling their national objectives.

Those who are trying to encroach on our people's rights should know that they, in fact, are serving the interests of our people's enemies. We will not stand idly by in the face of such practices which undermine the interest of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Speaker Condemns Jerusalem Bus Bombing

JN0303111896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0644 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the PNC, by Yasir 'Atilah in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Good morning Salim al-Za'nun. There has been yet another sabotage operation in Jerusalem. What is your comment?

[Al-Za'nun] It is undoubtedly a condemnable operation. Palestinian officials have been following this regrettable incident since first thing this morning. They were pained to see the fall of innocent victims in this incident. The overriding belief is that there is a package of operations. This makes us say that this operation is connected to the two previous ones. We denounce this operation in the same degree we denounced the two previous operations. The Palestinian officials denounce this operation. They will continue to follow up this incident as the Israeli agencies will do. There should be combined efforts to eradicate such criminal acts.

['Atilah] Abu-Adib, pain and denunciations have returned once again. Israeli circles say that things have become intolerable. What do you intend to do?

[Al-Za'nun] Efforts should be stepped up to halt these operations. Brother Yasir 'Arafat was considering measures as of 6:00 yesterday morning with regard to the two previous operations. I believe these measures will be stepped up in order to eradicate this phenomenon which upsets the peace process and the amity and concord between the two neighborly peoples.

['Atilah] Does the Palestinian side fear that the future Palestinian-Israeli relations are on the verge of explosion as some Israeli sources said this morning?

[Al-Za'nun] I believe that the condemnation by all segments of the Palestinian people of the two previous operations makes us sure that this phenomenon will end. This operation should be viewed as planned in connection with the two previous operations. Therefore, we should exercise self-restraint and work together to eliminate this phenomenon with absolute firmness. However, relations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority should not be affected negatively.

['Atilah] No doubt, you have contacts with the Palestinian political and security leadership. There is an Israeli belief that although the Palestinian Authority arrested some 250 people, the long list of detainees included none of the major suspects. Therefore, it is said that the Palestinian measures were superficial.

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[Al-Za'nun] This is incorrect. The figures who visited 'Arafat yesterday condemned these operations and said they reject them categorically. Therefore, innocent people who say they are against these operations should not be arrested. On the contrary, those who insist on carrying out these operations should be dealt with severely.

['Atilah] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], thank you very much.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Tibi Reacts to Bombing, Expresses 'Shame'

TA0303082896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0650 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by correspondent Razi Barqay; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Barqay] You called Yasir 'Arafat this morning and informed him of the attack.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, it is a task of which I have grown tired.

[Barqay] What time?

[Al-Tibi] As soon as I learned about it, I think around 0630 GMT [0430].

[Barqay] Can you tell us what he said?

[Al-Tibi] When he heard the death toll, there was a silence, and then he said: A major tragedy, a major tragedy. I spoke with him a week ago. He was enraged, angry, and shocked and called it a terrible tragedy. He was furious that a Palestinian, one of us, wants to harm the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority simultaneously.

[Barqay] Did he ask you to convey any message to Prime Minister Peres and the Israeli Government?

[Al-Tibi] He will do that himself.

[Barqay] Will he call Peres himself?

[Al-Tibi] Yes. Since I am far away from him, I do not know what he is doing, but he was supposed to do that. I do not have much to say. I only have this to say: I feel shame. I cannot say more.

[Barqay] I assume that beyond shame you understand that we are losing our ability to take blows, and based on what we heard this morning, the Israeli Government is saying that we cannot go on.

[Al-Tibi] As an Arab, I want to say that Palestinian society must do some soul-searching. We are sick and tired of the several dozen terrorist activists who endanger the Palestinian dream, the Israeli dream, the dream of both sides for peace. We are sick and tired. We must all say no outright to those actions. We have not done that so far. The time has come. I said that on the Voice of Palestine in Arabic just now; therefore, I permit myself to say it publicly to you. There is no point only in saying it to you. I said it in Arabic for all the people to hear. From early this morning, the Voice of Palestine has been carrying a special broadcast denouncing the attack and calling for soul-searching.

[Barqay] Who are those you say should declare that they are fed up serving as an instrument for several dozen fanatics? I understand that you are transmitting the message to the Palestinian leadership.

[Al-Tibi] Any Palestinian in any function and at any level, up to the highest level. We must all say that we are fed up and that we will not allow several activists to shame us, to put the mark of Cain on us, to endanger the fate of our people. What is the aim, to prevent the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from leaving Hebron, to harm a child? When I saw the bodies I wanted to bury myself. It is a shame.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio Hails Jerusalem 'Heroic Operation'

JN0303074996 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Strugglers: In the heart of the city of Jerusalem and only scores of meters away from the official Zionist institutions, the sun of this Palestinian morning shone, replete with heroism and martyrdom. A Palestinian hero detonated a highly explosive charge early this morning, killing or wounding scores of Zionists on Yafo Street in Jerusalem.

Brother strugglers: A third heroic operation in less than a week. The headquarters of the Zionist enemy police and the Zionist intelligence service are located only tens of meters away from the scene of the operation. The municipality buildings of the Zionist enemy, including the office of terrorist [Jerusalem Mayor Ehud] Olmert are located south of the scene.

Scores of dead and wounded. The bodies of the Zionists scattered tens of meters away from the site on Yafo Street. Nothing remained of the bus.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas' al-Faluji Urges Halt To Killing of Civilians

JN0303103596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Feb 96

[Telephone interview with 'Imad al-Faluji, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and a Hamas,

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Islamic Resistance Movement, official, by Hasan Abu-Zayid in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] What is your comment on the criminal incident which took place in Jerusalem this morning?

[Al-Faluji] My comment is that I regret that things have deteriorated. I do not think that the passage of time is in the interest of the two peoples. Therefore I call — as I did one week ago when the first incident occurred — for considering all developments and motives which make some people carry out these actions. I believe the Israeli Government should, instead of tightening the cordon and carrying out [word indistinct] measures and collective punishments against the Palestinian people, show greater determination and honesty with regard to dialogue with the Palestinians. It should address the real motives of these operations.

[Abu-Zayid] But, Shaykh 'Imad al-Faluji, does the solution lie in planting devices and killing innocent citizens?

[Al-Faluji] Of course this is not the solution. However, there should be serious initiatives. I am personally considering an initiative, which I will announce today, to all parties to prevent the continuation of this series of attacks, to rid ourselves of this circle, and move toward dialogue and stability, and to achieve the goals of the two parties.

[Abu-Zayid] What proposals are contained in this initiative?

[Al-Faluji] The most important point in this initiative, which I will announce today, is that all parties should announce a suspension of these operations and their readiness to launch dialogue and listen to each others' opinions so that we will reach a common language to ensure security and the rights of all parties.

[Abu-Zayid] Do you not think that it is about time for religious figures like yourself to call for halting these incidents which harm civilians and cause hatred between the two peoples?

[Al-Faluji] Personally, I have called more than once for stopping the killing of civilians on both sides. The two parties should pledge to stop these actions and avoid a frenzied reaction to developments. I hope every official on both sides will heed this call. The killing of civilians should stop. The two parties should reach an understanding so that they will realize their goals in a more civilized manner.

[Abu-Zayid] Shaykh 'Imad al-Faluji, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, thank you very much.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Promises 'Serious Steps' To Curb Jerusalem Bombers

JN0303093696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his first comment on the Jerusalem explosion this morning, in which 20 Israelis were killed and others wounded, President Yasir 'Arafat described the attack as an extremely serious terrorist and ugly attack not only against Israelis, but against Palestinians, Israelis, and the peace process.

On arrival at the presidency headquarters in Gaza this morning, President 'Arafat told reporters he strongly condemns those who are behind the incident. He stressed that the Palestinian Authority will take serious steps to curb the perpetrators of these attacks, be they the Black Panther, the Red Eagle, al-Qassam [Battalions], the Qasam [Pledge], or any other persons or armed groups. President 'Arafat stressed that cooperation will continue to prevent and stop such appalling terrorist operations.

President 'Arafat cabled his heartfelt condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and to the victims' families, pointing out that the matter will not pass easily. President 'Arafat said that the Jerusalem and Ashqelon explosions were severely condemned yesterday and several decisions were made by the Palestinian Council of Ministers in this regard. He said that all possible means will be used to continue to pursue the perpetrators of such operations.

Palestinian Affairs: Further Reactions to Bombing Reported

TA0303095796 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 0845 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eighteen people were killed and at least seven injured in this morning's suicide bus bombing in downtown West Jerusalem. The bomb went off at about 6:25 am on the same bus that was blown up last week, Egged Bus 18. The Israeli army tightened its closure of the Palestinian areas. Israel Radio's Arabic Service said a caller identifying himself as a member of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Units said the Units took responsibility for the attack. No other claims of responsibility are available.

The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Units had offered Israel last Thursday to stop bombing civilian buses. The offer gave Israel till 7 pm, March 7, to respond.

The police said today's bomb was much stronger than last week's. The bomber reportedly stood in the middle of the bus when he detonated.

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Six of the injured are in Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, and five are reportedly in serious condition. Another one of the injured is in Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital.

Reactions:

— 'Arafat, quoted by Voice of Palestine: "This is a catastrophe. It damages the interests of the Palestinian people."

— Hanan 'Ashrawi (INDEPENDENT-JERUSALEM), interviewed on Voice of Palestine: "This is an immoral act, not a military operation."

— 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, interviewed on Radio Israel's Arabic Service: "Muslim religious leaders must give us a clear fatwa (decree) about these suicide attacks... I am very ashamed of these scenes. This is not a battle, there are children there. I send a message to the political leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]: It's time for them to raise their voices, they are the silent majority. They should tell the minority: Let's give a chance for the peace process, let's give a chance for civilization."

— PNC [Palestine National Council] acting president Salim al-Za'nun: "The people behind this should be punished."

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Outlaws Hamas, Islamic Jihad Military Wings

TA0303092996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0855 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman announced that 'Arafat has decided to outlaw all the military organizations, specifically mentioning 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam — Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing — and Qassam — Islamic Jihad's military wing. That was one of the demands Israel conveyed to 'Arafat following last week's terrorist attacks. Israel is now demanding the arrest of the terrorist leaders. Only low-level members have so far been arrested.

I received a call from someone instructing me to telephone Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, a senior Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip. He issued a call through Qol Yisra'el. He reiterated the Hamas call for a cease-fire, and said he personally supports a cease-fire with Israel. He said that he does not know the stand of the military wing, but as a member of the political wing, he supports the proposal and calls for negotiations with Israel for a temporary cease-fire. On today's attack, he said Hamas' principle is that we must not murder civilians. When I asked him whether he specifically denounces this morning's attack, he said that what is taking place is a response to Israel's actions. We want all thinking people in the region, in the entire world, in the Palestinian Authority, in Israel, to show responsibility. He did not say what he meant. I asked him whether Hamas is divided since Hamas' military wing in Judaea and Samaria is perpetrating the attacks, but he refused to comment. But there apparently is a serious rift in Hamas. The very fact that Abu-Musamih again called for negotiations with Israel and his remarks that he is opposed to the murder of civilians support that.

Palestinian Affairs: Senior Hamas Officials on Possibility of Cease-Fire

TA0303114396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Mar 96

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Less than a week after Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sent two suicide terrorists to carry out attacks, the movement's activists are donning diplomatic suits. In a leaflet distributed by Hamas on 29 February, it offered Israel "a cease-fire from deadly attacks in exchange for the release of all the prisoners and an end to Israeli harassment of Hamas activists." Is Hamas undergoing a change? [passage omitted]

I asked Dr. Ghazi Hamad, one of the organization's leaders in the Gaza Strip, what is happening with Hamas.

[Hamad] This was an official Hamas announcement. We are not merely a military organization, or a terror organization — as you call us. We also have political positions and we are willing to turn our forces against the continuation of the bloodshed. We want to put an end to the circle of violence — an act of revenge, followed by another operation, followed by another act of revenge.

[Shaqed] Does Hamas want peace all of a sudden?

[Hamad] We called for peace a long time ago, but you did not want to listen. In 1993 we proposed a cease-fire agreement, but you disregarded it. We are concerned about Palestinian interests.

[Shaqed] Are you willing to hold direct negotiations with Israel?

[Hamad] Absolutely not. We are not referring to direct negotiations with Israel, rather to negotiations via the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The PA is the ruling authority — we have no pretensions of being an alternative to this authority. Yesterday we made it clear to the PA leaders that we are not holding any negotiations

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with Israel. They were concerned that we are holding such negotiations behind the scenes. We emphasized to them that in the triangle made up of Israel, the PA, and Hamas, we will only negotiate with the PA — although it is clear that such an agreement requires Israeli approval. The PA heads expressed their satisfaction with this announcement.

[Shaqed] What sort of cease-fire are you talking about?

[Hamad] We are talking about a cease-fire for 10 years — a temporary cease-fire. We are talking about a mutual cessation of attacks against civilians.

[Shaqed] And what about operations directed against the military and settlers?

[Hamad] This can also be discussed. I want to reiterate what was stated in the leaflet: This is a golden opportunity, so why should Israel refuse? Do you want the bloodshed to continue? [end Hamad]

Hasan Yusuf, known as Abu-Musa'ib, is a senior Hamas leader residing in the town of Baytuniya near Ramallah. He claims that Hamas has been in a state of unilateral cease-fire for the last seven months, but by "killing the Engineer, Israel has violated the cease-fire. Now I want to call on Israel not to waste the opportunity. Basically we are a political movement, and 'Arafat and Peres must strengthen this trend. We are not an alternative to 'Arafat, but if Israel wants to speak with us we are willing. We are not vetoing a dialogue with Israel. We will raise all pending issues in the negotiations. We are willing to enter a cease-fire agreement. Now everything depends on Israel." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew on 3 March carries an unattributed report on page 3 adding: "Peace Bloc [nonpartisan peace movement] representatives Uri Avneri and Adam Keller yesterday met Shaykh Hasan Yusuf, the Hamas spokesman in the West Bank and a member of the movement's negotiating team with the PA." "The Peace Bloc representatives noted that 'there is a chance for a cease-fire agreement with Hamas'."

["According to the Peace Bloc activists, Shaykh Yusuf noted in the meeting that Hamas will agree to make peace with Israel if the latter withdraws from all the occupied territories and permits the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. 'If the occupation ends, we will stop the attacks,' said Shaykh Yusuf."]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, Mubarak Discuss Jerusalem Explosion

JN0303101796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation took place a short while ago between President Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to discuss the latest developments in light of the explosion in Jerusalem this morning.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Engineer's Disciples' Assume Responsibility for Attack

TA0303091296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a leaflet distributed this morning in the territories and East Jerusalem, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm assumes responsibility for this morning's attack in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports that as was the case last week, the leaflet is signed by the group dubbing itself the Engineer's Disciples.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Engineer's Disciples' Announce 3 Month Cease-Fire

TA0303100096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0935 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a leaflet distributed a short time ago, the Engineer's Disciples announce that with today's attack they complete their retaliation for the assassination of Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer. In the leaflet, they urge 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam not to issue any statements regarding an end to the military operations. They announce, however, that they themselves are suspending their military operations for three months in order to give Israel and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political headquarters in the territories an opportunity to reach an understanding via the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian Affairs: Statement Condemns Jerusalem Blast, Bans Armed Groups

JN0303115096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Mar 96

["Text" of statement issued by the Palestinian Authority on 3 March — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heinous crime that took place in Jerusalem this morning is not only directed against the peace process and the Israelis, but is mainly directed against the interests of the Palestinian people, their national experience, and their National Authority. It is thus an expression of a cycle of bloody violence

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whose primary victims will be the Palestinian people, their national accomplishments, the livelihood of their children, and the future of their generations.

Proceeding from its national duties and responsibilities toward the Palestinian people, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], will not stand idly by regarding this foreign and blatant conspiracy, which is directed by the enemies of the Palestinian people and the enemies of peace, who are using these Palestinian elements to carry out their crimes. The PNA decided to continue to take all the necessary and immediate measures dictated by the situation. These include banning the activities of all paramilitary organizations such as the Fatah Hawks, the Black Panther, al-Qassam [Battalions], the Red Star, the Red Eagle, and Qasam [Pledge] in order to maintain order, ensure stability, peace, and security, and fulfill the commitments pledged by the Palestinian people.

On behalf of the Palestinian people, the PNA condemns this criminal terrorist operation, and conveys its condolences to the families of the dead and the wounded in the tragic incident and to the Israeli Government.

The PNA will continue to take all the necessary measures to face this serious situation that jeopardizes the lives, interests, and existence of all sectors of the Palestinian people.

[Dated] Gaza, 3 March 1996

Palestinian Affairs: 'Text' of Leaflet Claiming Responsibility for Bus Bombing

TA0303122396 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Yahya 'Ayyash Units, first heard of in last week's suicide bombings in Ashqelon and Jerusalem, took responsibility for today's attack on Bus 18 on Yafo St.

Following is the text of the leaflet:

Leaflet No. 3 — Our response to the killing of Yahya 'Ayyash is over.

To our heroic people, the steadfast Palestinians:

The Yahya 'Ayyash Units declare their responsibility for the martyrdom operation that took place this morning, 3 March 1996, in the heart of Jerusalem. The operation killed or injured all of the passengers of the bus.

This blessed operation was carried out in loyalty to the blood of the martyr engineer 'Yahya Ayyash. It ends our violent revenge to the organized violence of the Israeli Government. We want to affirm the following:

A) To the Israeli Government:

1) With this operation our response to the killing of the Engineer ends. We will stop our armed activities starting this morning to give the Israeli government and Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] political leadership in the homeland a chance to reach a cease-fire via the Palestinian National Authority. They have three months to do this.

2) We will violate this immediately if the feeble Shabak [Shin Bet] hurts Hamas or the wanted heroes of the Qassam Units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

3) The security closure and all security measures will not prevent us from striking anytime or anywhere we want. We told you in our first leaflet that we have a strong base and structure allowing us to live in ghost towns until Judgment Day.

B) To the Israeli people:

In all calmness we tell you that neither the Labor nor the Likud Party will give you security as long as your government adopts terrorism as a policy against us and continues to arrest our people.

We are more keen than anyone else to not shed a drop of blood, so push your government to deal with our initiative so that stability and tranquility can be had in Palestine.

C) To all concerned:

We tell those who issued the leaflet signed by the Qassam Units talking about a cease-fire to immediately stop issuing any leaflets. We have a clear program and we will be committed to our words in front of the whole world.

D) To the brothers in the Palestinian National Authority:

You do not have to continue your arrest and torture campaign among Hamas activists. We work in the land of the raped entity, so do not allow the Shabak men to turn you into something that they hang their failure and stupidity on.

To our struggling people:

The Engineer's Units promise to remain loyal to Palestinian blood and maintain our people's unity and sanctity of this unity.

Glory and immortality to Yahya 'Ayyash's soul

This is Jihad, victory or martyrdom

The Yahya 'Ayyash Units

[Signed] New Disciples

Palestine/Jerusalem/3 March 1996

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Palestinian Affairs: Security Deploys Armored Vehicles for 'Crackdown' on Groups

TA0303130096 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Arafat announced that the armed wings of Palestinian factions — Black Panthers (Fatah), Red Hawks, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam (Hamas) [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Qasam (Islamic Jihad) — are outlawed. Eyewitnesses said that Force 17, also known as Presidential Security, are deploying in armored personnel carriers in Gaza to begin their crackdown on these groups.

Palestinian Affairs: Police Begin Confiscating Weapons From Hamas

TA0303113896 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Palestinian Police yesterday broke into several homes in Gaza that belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members and confiscated weapons, a day after a call to hand in all unlicensed weapons passed its deadline. The police also announced that anyone carrying an unlicensed gun could face up to 15 years imprisonment. The same sentence was imposed last year.

"There is only one Palestinian Authority [PA], and it will not allow any other illegal authority to create a disturbance," said PA Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah, leaving a cabinet meeting yesterday.

The guns were to have been delivered to police stations by Friday [1 March], and yesterday was the first day of police raids.

Observers said there were more police roadblocks than usual, and that police had gone into several buildings to search for weapons.

The decision to confiscate guns was made after a demand by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres that 'Arafat break up rival militias, mainly Hamas, which claimed responsibility for last Sunday's Jerusalem and Ashqelon bombings. Peres indicated that further talks would be contingent on this step. [passage omitted]

Hamas spokesmen have kept silent on the gun issue, but not on continuing arrests, which have now reached over 150, including Hasan Yusuf, a well known senior activist from Ramallah, who was arrested Friday.

"The Islamic Resistance Movement condemns these hysterical detention campaigns by the self-rule authority against Hamas," they said.

It accused the PA of "Zionist-pleasing arrests," "betting on the fragmentation of Hamas" and "distributing false statements such as one referring to 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's denial of responsibility for the Jerusalem and Ashqelon bombings."

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Discussing Jerusalem Explosion With Egypt's al-Baz

JN0303124596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is currently meeting with Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, at the Presidential Offices in Gaza.

The two sides are expected to discuss the latest developments in the light of the explosion in Jerusalem this morning.

The meeting is attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Mahmud 'Abbas, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat, U.S. Consul-General Discuss Jerusalem Bombing

JN0303123796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning received a phone call from Edward Abington, the U.S. consul-general [in Jerusalem], who expressed concern over the terrorist act in Jerusalem this morning. Abington urged the National Authority to adopt strict measures to prevent such acts.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Tightens 'Military Siege' of Palestinian Territories

JN0303125896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation troops tightened the military siege imposed on the Palestinian territories. They canceled all the facilities that were approved yesterday, including allowing the travel of humanitarian cases and patients to hospitals.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Baz Confers With 'Arafat on Peace Developments

NC0303140996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 3 Mar (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received in Gaza today Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

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Discussions dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority following recent incidents, including this morning's explosion in Jerusalem.

The meeting was attended by members of the Palestinian Legislative Council Mahmud 'Abbas and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and President 'Arafat's adviser Hani al-Hasan.

Al-Baz arrived in Gaza from Cairo today following his visit yesterday to Israel, during which he met Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the means of containing the effects of recent events on the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Statement Bans Hamas, Jihad, DFLP, PFLP Paramilitaries

TA0303145496 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1355 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

PA [Palestinian Authority] STATEMENT

The PA issued the following statement, quoted in the official news agency WAFA: "The vicious crime that took place this morning in Jerusalem is not directed at the peace process and Israelis alone, but in essence against the interests of the Palestinian people, their national experiment and the National Authority. It expresses the bloody spiral of violence whose primary fuel is the Palestinian people, their national achievements, the livelihoods of their sons, and their future generations.

"The Palestinian National Authority, out of its feeling of national responsibility toward the Palestinian people, will not stand by in front of this blatant external conspiracy. The conspiracy is being run by the enemies of the Palestinian people and enemies of peace who are using Palestinian elements in their crimes.

"The Authority has decided to continue to take the necessary and immediate steps imposed by this situation, including the banning of all paramilitary organizations, like Fatah Hawks, Black Panthers (Fatah), ['Izz-al-Din] al-Qassam (Hamas) [Islamic Resistance Movement], Red Star (DFLP)[Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Red Hawks (PFLP) [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and Qasam (Islamic Jihad). This is to impose law and order and ensure stability, tranquility and safety and to fulfill the commitments made by the Palestinian people.

"Condemning these terroristic criminal actions in its name and in the name of the Palestinian people, the National Authority sends its condolences to the families of the casualties and to the Israeli government.

"The Palestinian National Authority will continue to take all the necessary measures to confront this dangerous situation which is threatening the lives, interests and existence of all sectors of the Palestinian people."

Palestinian Affairs: Suspect in Jerusalem Bus Bombing Identified

TA0303150496 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1355 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUSPECT IDENTIFIED: Salim 'Umran 'Ubaydu is being identified as today's suicide bomber. 'Ubaydu is a 26-year-old schoolteacher from al-Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem. He works in a school in Jerusalem. He is the only son among nine daughters. Palestinians said he was known as a religious man.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Officials on Antiterror Fight, Need To Continue Peace

TA0303203296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Feb 96

[Telephone interview with Dhiyab al-Lawh, head of Fatah's Media and Education Department, by Rafi Ginat and Mikhal Gazit; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ginat] Good day Dhiyab al-Lawh, Fatah's media official. There were very grave comments against 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority [PA] at today's cabinet meeting. The Israeli claim, which seems justified today, is that you simply fail to deliver. Why can't you deliver?

[Al-Lawh] I think that the PA and President Yasir 'Arafat take a very serious view of the new situation that has emerged due to today's horrifying incident in Jerusalem which we all condemn. We have no national interest in these attacks, and the PA has made every effort to put an end to them.

[Ginat] Tell me, the armored personnel carriers of Force-17 that we saw in Gaza's streets today — is this another 'Arafat show for the Israeli public, or is this force slated to operate soon against the terrorist infrastructure of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and others?

[Al-Lawh] Look, I believe the PA is shouldering security responsibility for the areas under its control. It is making every effort to establish order and security in these areas, and to prevent all those elements that form a rule within a rule from changing the situation in the region as they would like to.

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[Gazit] Still, we heard Chairman 'Arafat announce that Hamas has officially been outlawed. What does this mean? Does it mean that you will not allow either the political or military activity of this organization?

[Al-Lawh] The PA declaration was clear. It outlawed the military arms of the Palestinian opposition organizations, and not the organizations themselves. Namely, Hamas as a political movement has the right to exist and operate, but all military arms are outlawed. We in Fatah were the first to have dismantled our military apparatus.

[Ginat] How will you be able to dismantle Hamas' military apparatus?

[Al-Lawh] There is a PA and there is a law and there is a legal system.

[Gazit] But you said this also a month ago, two months ago, even a year ago. You keep repeating the cycle of detaining and releasing people. What is new now?

[Al-Lawh] The PA is carrying out detentions. We will investigate, reach those elements who perpetrate the attacks, and try to punish them. This is what happened and what is happening now too....

[Ginat, interrupting] Dhiyab, Israel today declared an all-out war against Hamas. On what side are you in this war against Hamas? Let me hear this in as clear terms as possible.

[Al-Lawh] I heard the declarations by the Israeli prime minister. This is an all-out war indeed. We, the Fatah movement, are appealing to Hamas and all opposition organizations which support these attacks to work within Palestinian law and to immediately prevent the perpetration of these attacks, to dismantle and disarm their military mechanisms, as determined by the PA.

[Ginat] Do you agree that Hamas is causing you, the PA, Fatah, enormous damage from a public, political, and practical viewpoint, here and worldwide?

[Al-Lawh] We told the Hamas members clearly and unequivocally that these attacks that they perpetrate are against our national interests, and against peace and the agreements the PLO signed with the Israeli Government....

[Ginat, interrupting] They know this, and you have told them to stop a few times already, but they have not. What's next?

[Al-Lawh] Great understanding on this issue has been achieved in the dialogue which has been going on over the past eight months. There was an undertaking by Hamas vis-a-vis the PA not to carry out attacks, and they have deviated from this over the last two weeks.

[Ginat] What will you do now? Talk again?

[Al-Lawh] More talk indeed. We will not give up on dialogue, in addition to the measures that the PA is adopting.

[Ginat] Dhiyab al-Lawh, thank you for this conversation.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1500 GMT carries an interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, the PA official in charge of the Israel Desk, in which Abu-Zayidah states that "Israeli-Palestinian relations in the wake of today's attack in Jerusalem are at a very sensitive stage." Abu-Zayidah expresses the PA's shock at the horrendous attack and its political implications, but says that "Israel has exaggerated the responsibility of the PA." Still, Abu-Zayidah adds: "If the capture of Muhammad Dif, 'Abd-al-Fattah Sutari, or anybody else can solve the problem, I promise you it is possible, and it will be no problem. Still, the problem is not Muhammad Dif. The problem is not Gaza or Hebron, but a more comprehensive problem. I think that reaction this time should come from the Palestinian street in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, not only from the PA. I think that the Palestinian street must today express its opinion about what is happening. It must support the PA and express its opinion in favor of the peace process." "I think that the Palestinian street should not remain indifferent, but rather come out with rallies, demonstrations, and marches to express its support for the peace process and the PA, for peace between Palestinians and Israelis. We must not let a number of people dictate our lives. We must not surrender, neither us nor you. We must continue, we must have full cooperation, not only between the PA and the Israeli Government, but also between the Palestinian and Israeli nations. We must persevere and not give in."]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Terrorist' Planners, Perpetrators Said Gone Underground

TA0303200996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Talk between announcer Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Barne'a] [passage omitted] Egypt and the Palestinian Authority [PA] will do all they can to prevent the cessation of the peace process, and so will the second Arab country with which Israel has signed a peace accord. Here is what King Husayn said in an exclusive interview from London today with Channel 2:

[Begin King Husayn recording, in English] I would like to point out that these acts must be viewed also as a

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very flagrant provocation, that they are bringing about a serious retaliation that could cause enormous damage to the peace process. [end recording]

[Eylon] Is there a sense of emergency in the PA today?

[Barne'a] There is definitely a sense of emergency, and 'Arafat is in a quandary: On the one hand, if he fails to do what Israel wants him to do against terrorist nests inside his jurisdiction, Israel will stop the political process, which 'Arafat wants so much to continue. If it stops, his people will accuse him of inaction. On the other hand, if he does all Israel wants him to do and more, he will be acting against his own people, and this time he will be doing it very firmly, without playing games. We have heard Palestinians allege that a very sophisticated game is being played out here, that Israel wants to push 'Arafat to the brink of a Palestinian civil war. 'Arafat is therefore in a quandary, but based on all I have heard from people around 'Arafat today and tonight, 'Arafat seems to have concluded that he has no choice and that he must act firmly. [passage omitted]

The problem is that the truly dangerous men, those who plan and handle the actual attackers, have gone underground. Moreover, even members of the terrorist political echelons, who are not connected with the perpetrators of these dreadful attacks, have also gone underground out of fear of 'Arafat's iron fist.

Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Denounces Jerusalem Bombing as 'Irresponsible'

JN0303201096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement stressed its rejection and denunciation of acts that conflict with national interest and that are aimed at embarrassing the National Authority [NA] and weakening its negotiating position. This declaration followed the operation that occurred in Jerusalem today.

In a statement issued today, Fatah said that these irresponsible acts will not serve Palestine or its national identity, but will directly harm the NA's requirements from the Israeli side in the coming stage.

The statement says: It is time for us to say enough is enough. Such practices do not represent our people's ethics and will not serve the Palestinian future — land, people, and politics. The statement also stresses the need to strongly confront any militia and said that nobody will be allowed to turn Palestine into another Somalia, or even less, under any pretext.

Fatah called on the Palestinian masses and the political forces of our people to shoulder their national responsibility and be themselves in order to defend the national interest at this critical stage of political action.

The movement asserted it will remain loyal to the sacrifices and achievements of our Palestinian people and will shoulder its responsibilities under all circumstances and in all militant situations.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Phone Calls From Christopher, Ross

JN0303221096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a phone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the latest developments in view of the attack in Jerusalem today. Earlier today, 'Arafat received a phone call from the U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, Dennis Ross, on the same issue.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses People

JN0403120896 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 2053 GMT 3 Feb 96

["Political statement" by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza on 3 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother citizens: At this grave moment, I address our Palestinian people to place before them the true dimensions of the successive plots aimed at preempting our people's efforts to complete the liberation of their land and realize their national independence.

The plotters against our people have gone mad following the unparalleled success of our people in carrying out the democratic elections of their president and their legislative council. The plotters against the people are now trying, through the sinful terrorist attacks, not only to attack innocent Israelis, but also to deal a blow to the peace process, prevent the meeting of the Legislative Council, hinder the formation of our national government, and put our cause and people in a vicious circle of anarchy and violence from which only those who are lying in wait for our people and their supreme national interests will benefit.

Brother citizens, stemming from our concern for our march and aims, we tell you that these deplorable terrorist attacks will never serve our people, but will serve our enemies, who do not want any good for our people. Their aim is to continue to use our cause and people as bargaining chips in the international and regional slave market, tamper with their livelihood and aims, and use false slogans and suspect practices that

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are forbidden by God, by Islamic law, and by all norms and conventions.

The Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which is trusted and honest in its efforts to realize our people's aims and supreme national interest, addresses itself to our proud masses and calls on them to strike at the criminal hands that are tampering with the fate of our people and exposing our national future and the achievements realized by our people to danger. The PNA will never allow our land to become a theater for plotters who are implementing the schemes against our people and turning a cold shoulder to our national interests and our people's security, stability, livelihood, and future.

Brother citizens, your people and PNA and your just cause are at a critical crossroad. Either we continue our political march to realize our national aims in freedom and independence or let our cause and people once again fall into the hands of our enemies and those who haggle over our cause.

The PNA, with the support of our Palestinian masses, has decided to continue the peaceful political march. It will strike with a powerful hand at the plotters who are trying by all means to undermine our achievements and national independence and the future of our children, who want to live without occupation and without the cycle of violence, extremism, and terrorism. It has decided to face the flagrant foreign plot, which is directed by the enemies of the Palestinian people — a plot that uses these Palestinian elements to carry out its crimes — yes, that uses the Palestinian elements in its crimes.

Relying on the peoples' confidence in and support for our popular and national march, the PNA has decided to ban the activity of all terrorist groups that are working to undermine our national goals, just as they blow up a bus carrying innocent Israeli, Palestinian, and foreign civilians.

We are eager to tell our people that the Legislative Council will convene, God willing, on 7 March, as scheduled. The Palestinian Authority's government will be formed without any delay and shoulder its national responsibilities and lead our people in the battle of independence and construction.

We will continue the peace march and abide by the agreements that we have signed in the name of our people, who reaffirmed their support during the recent presidential and legislative elections. Our people will not bow to the conspirators who are carrying out suspect foreign schemes to deal a blow to our newborn national independence.

I am confident that our people will realize the PNA's measures to prevent the conspirators from achieving their objectives. The Palestinian people and the PNA refuse to tarnish the Palestinian image through these crimes, which are a mark of disgrace on the human conscience.

Finally, I am asserting to the Israeli people, its public opinion, and its leadership that we share their grief and pain and that we strongly denounce these crimes in the name of all Palestinians. I also call for joint action to curb all extremist and terrorist forces and their violations in order to build a just peace and to establish equitable, neighborly relations without threat and aggression. I am confident that our mutual pain will push us toward a true peace of the courageous, that we will bravely continue what we have started, and that we will remain protectors of peace for the future of our children and yours and future generations. And fear tumult or oppression, which affecteth not in particular those of you who do wrong [Koranic verse]. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Palestinian Affairs: Bombings Believed Perpetrated by Hamas Splinter Faction

TA0403085496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Defense establishment sources estimate that yesterday's bombing was meant to pressure Israel to negotiate with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The growing assessment is that the latest bombings were staged by an extremist splinter faction that split from Hamas' military wing and does not obey the orders of its political level. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] Who is the new-old enemy we are facing now? An analysis of the leaflet issued by the New Disciples of Yahya 'Ayyash, which assumed responsibility for the bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon, shows that it agrees to hold negotiations with Israel through the Palestinian Authority and Hamas' internal leadership in the territories. Signs are growing that this group is operating independently of Hamas' military wing in the Gaza Strip and its political leadership.

The Palestinian security services claim that the group is being run from Syria by Shaykh Khalil, who used to run Yahya 'Ayyash. Its infrastructure in the West Bank has not yet been uncovered by the Shin Bet. The group boasts that it has a strong infrastructure and that it can turn Israel into a world of ghosts if need be, as the leaflet put it.

Hamas' military wing has been trying to tone down the split with the group. It does not denounce the bombings,

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and says that their aim is to awaken all conscious people in the world to the dangerous situation that has been created. [passage omitted]

The rupture and split within Hamas is also reflected in the different dates of the deadlines given to Israel to respond to Hamas' proposal about a cease-fire. A Hamas faction in the Gaza Strip gave Israel until 1900 on 8 March, while the New Disciples of Yahya 'Ayyash, the perpetrators of the bombings, gave Israel a three-month deadline. The latter publishes its leaflets in East Jerusalem and rapidly disseminates them to the media, which attests to its infrastructure in the eastern part of the city. One of the leaders of this group is the terrorist Muhyi-al-Din al-Sharif, a resident of Bayt Hanina in East Jerusalem, who has been wanted by the security forces.

Israeli sources estimate that the bombing was meant, among other things, to pressure Israel to negotiate with the group in view of the Israeli political level's statements over the weekend that there will be no negotiations with Hamas.

Palestinian Affairs: National Security Council Supports 'Arafat's Measures

JN0403073896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0510 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Statement by Higher Palestinian National Security Council issued on 3 March from the "A New Day" Feature—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Palestinian National Security Council [HPNSC] held an emergency meeting at 1800 on Sunday, 3 March under President Yasir 'Arafat. The Council discussed the dimensions and impact of the heinous bloody suicide operation in Jerusalem this morning which killed or wounded many defenseless Palestinians and Israelis.

After reviewing President Yasir 'Arafat's measures in the wake of this reprehensible crime and the Council of Ministers' decisions in this respect, the Council vehemently denounces and condemns this crime and views it as part of the criminal actions that flout all humanitarian, ethical, and religious values, and as a blow against the Palestinian people's interests. This action reveals suspect dimensions and objectives which are in line with the enemies of our Palestinian national objectives in service of foreign interests and in implementation of foreign instructions.

The HPNSC affirms it will not stand idly by and that it has adopted immediate and decisive measures, arrangements, and decisions to protect the Palestinian people's interests and achievements and to reemphasize the National Authority's [NA] full respect for all its commitments and pledges enshrined in the peace agreement and the other international agreements in a manner that will prevent any obstacles or obstructions that could have an impact on the peace process or on the regaining of the Palestinian territories.

The HPNSC refuses that the Palestinian face be tarnished and the Palestinian image be distorted by crimes and atrocities that constitute a shameful scar in the conscience of mankind, a scar engraved by a handful of people who have placed themselves in service of outside forces which harbor rancor against the Palestinian people, their leadership, and their NA. The painful crimes of this handful deviate from the Palestinian political course and strategy to abort the peace process which was approved by the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people through the PLO's highest democratic levels represented in the Palestine National Council, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PLO Central council, and which our people reiterated in the recent presidential and legislative elections.

The HPNSC fully supports all the measures and decisions announced by his Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority's Council of Ministers and affirms it will forcefully implement them to end violence and terrorism and the shedding of innocent blood, to achieve security and stability for the Palestinian people, and to establish their independent and free state within the framework of cooperation and coexistence with the Israeli people and state.

Signed: The Higher Palestinian National Security Council, 3 March 1996

Palestinian Affairs: Palestinian Council Member on Bombings, Impact

NC0403094596 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, in Jericho, by Shahatah Abu-al- Majd, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Where is the peace process with Israel heading after the latest acts of violence? Voices have been raised, particularly the Israeli president's, to halt this process with the Palestinians.

[Al-Tarifi] These are more than mere acts of violence. These are crimes committed against innocent civilians and they must be stopped promptly. What has happened is a moral crime. In my view our Islamic religion has nothing to do with such crimes. We as Palestinian

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people are innocent and have nothing to do with them. The bombings must be stopped. These bombings not only target the lives of innocent Israeli civilians, but also the Palestinian people's higher interests. The bombings must stop. As you and everyone else must have heard through the media, these movements, according to a decision by the Palestinian Authority [PA], have been outlawed. We will never allow such actions to continue. There must be wise men on the Israeli side even in such an ordeal. I am quite surprised at and disapprove of Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman's statement. The bombings will stop only by expediting the peace process. This is the appropriate response by Israel, not accepting the conditions of the enemies of peace or withdrawing into itself. The right answer is to speed up the peace process on the Palestinian track. They must understand that the Palestinian people are eager for the peace process, want it to continue, and condemn all that has happened. But it is not right to give the Israeli right wing the opportunity to tamper with and reap some fruit from these incidents.

[Abu-al-Majd] Who armed these groups with weapons and explosives?

[Al-Tarifi] We have no arms or explosives to give to such people. Israel and the Israeli mafia are responsible. These groups receive orders from outside Palestine. There are responsibilities in which we have no part. We have often told the Israelis: Have compassion on us and on yourselves, stop the proliferation of these arms, and control your traders in the black market. This situation cannot continue.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does the PA have other measures to halt the activities of these groups so that the peace process may continue on the right path?

[Al-Tarifi] The PA is doing all it can so that full control of the areas under PA self-rule will be in the hands of the Palestinian national security men. It does not accept dual control. But these bombings take place inside Jerusalem, where we have no control. Anyone who performs such operations works out of areas where we have no control; consequently, the Israeli security agencies' shortcomings must not be blamed on the PA in the peace process. Otherwise, we would be rewarding the Israeli and Palestinian right wings. I believe they are coordinating to torpedo the peace process, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but throughout the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you continue to collect arms in the area under the control of the PA?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes. We will continue to collect the arms and anyone who refuses to hand over arms will be punished according to the valid criminal laws. This decision was also emphasized at the meeting of the Palestinian cabinet.

[Abu-al-Majd] If it is found that individuals who took part in these bombings are in your areas will you hand them over to the Israelis?

[Al-Tarifi] We will bring them to a Palestinian court, where we will punish them as if they had killed Palestinians.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you as Palestinians see an opportunity to emerge from this impasse?

[Al-Tarifi] The only way out is to speed up the peace process. This is the only way out. We and the Israelis must not give in to the extremist movements; we must speed up the peace process. Implementation of the peace agreement must be our goal—Israel's and our own.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Israeli Government has taken measures against these groups to protect what it calls Israel's security, including, among other things, continuing to separate the area under the PA's authority from Israel, tightening monitoring of these groups, and forming police units specialized in protecting bus stops. Do you believe these measures will limit the acts of violence or are there any other measures to advance the peace process and end violence?

[Al-Tarifi] The policy of cordoning off areas, separation, and the like will be of no use. The bombing came amid a security cordon and at a time when Palestinians were not allowed to enter Israel. Despite this, the bombing took place and there were victims. The main thing is to speed up the peace process. This will convince the Palestinians that their lives have become easier under peace. We can also convince the Israeli citizens that their lives are more secure in the era of peace. The Israeli Government has a right to take any security measures in Israel to protect its citizens, like any other country. No one can prevent Israel from taking such measures. Regarding bilateral relations, I believe there must be Palestinian-Israeli cooperation to end any acts that might harm the Palestinians and Israelis and torpedo the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the forms of this cooperation?

[Al-Tarifi] There are various areas, such as honestly implementing the peace agreement. I think this would corner these groups before our people. Israel can release the detainees; keeping them in jail violates the agreement. Releasing them would place them at the head of the people as a challenge to the armed groups. Another idea is to halt the policy of expropriating land and expanding the settlements and the bypass roads built by the Israelis under various pretexts. They can stop the continuing violations of the agreement. These measures

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would create an appropriate climate and prevent these groups from using these loopholes.

Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Statement Condemns Jerusalem Blast, Warns Hamas

JN0403101996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0620 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Statement by Fatah Higher Committee dated 3 March; from "A New Day" feature—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement's Higher Committee in the West Bank held an urgent meeting yesterday evening and discussed the Palestinian situation and the developments that followed the operations carried out by groups affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and issued the following decisions:

1. The Fatah Movement strongly condemns the violent operations in Jerusalem, in which innocent people were killed.

2. The Fatah Movement warns the Hamas Movement against continuing this policy which poses a serious threat to the Palestinian national program and the higher interests of our people. Fatah calls on Hamas to halt such actions, which are destructive to our people and serve none but the enemies of our people.

3. The Fatah Movement declares its full support for the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], its decisions, and measures, most prominent among which is stripping all of their weapons. No weapon is legal except the one in the hands of our PNA.

4. The Fatah Movement denounces the policy of closure, starvation, confiscation [of land], and the opening of bypass roads being pra[illegible]ed by the Government of Israel. It calls on the Israeli Government to lift the political cordon and to end the policy of closure as they lead to further tension and deterioration in the Palestinian situation. Events proved that no security benefits can be gained from such a policy. We call on the Israeli Government to continue the peace process in order to realize a just peace and not to act impulsively.

5. The Fatah Movement calls on our people as well as all its cadres and members to close their ranks and rally around the PNA to defend the accomplishments of our people and to protect our Palestinian national unity. The Fatah Movement Higher Committee pledges to our people and martyrs to continue the struggle to establish the independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Member Allowed To Enter Territories, Condemns Bombing

TA0403081696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has allowed Mamduh Nawfal, a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and one of the planners of the school massacre in Ma'alot over 20 years ago, to enter the territories. Our correspondent reports that Yasir 'Arafat once tried to smuggle Nawfal into the autonomy in his car, but that Israel found out about it and deported him. Nawfal arrived in Qalqilyah last night. In an interview with the Voice of Palestine he strongly condemned the bombing in Jerusalem, saying it was meant to harm the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Figure Proposes Initiative for Agreement With Israel

TA0403093596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, formerly a prominent member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza and leader of its military wing, has come up with a new initiative for an agreement between Israel and Hamas to stop the terrorist attacks. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that his proposal includes a mutual halt to the killing of civilians, an immediate halt to violent retaliation, a meeting between Muslim, Christian, and Jewish clergymen to formulate a document of understanding, and an urgent meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Palestinian Affairs: Police Arrest Over 120 Hamas Members Since 3 Mar Bombing

TA0403103896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip have arrested over 120 members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] since yesterday's bombing, a prominent Hamas official told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. According to him, the number of Hamas men arrested in the Gaza Strip in the past week totals 350.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Thousands' of Gazans, Israeli Arabs Protest Against Terror

TA0403130596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza today, tens of thousands of residents staged a demonstration at the al-Yarmuk

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Stadium, expressing their opposition to terror. Salim al-Za'nun, one of the PLO leaders, accused Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] of acting on instructions from Damascus and Tehran.

In an emergency meeting in Shefar'am, members of the Israeli Arab Follow-Up Committee decided that the local Arab councils will stage a two-hour strike to protest against the attacks, and that one hour of tomorrow's school day will be dedicated to the issue of war on terror.

In Qalansuwa, near Netanya, hundreds of residents staged a demonstration against terror attacks, and carried placards saying — "Peres, we are with you" and "Death to the killers, not to the Arabs." These reports were filed by our correspondents Yo'el Dar and Yaron Kener.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Addresses Rally, Receives Clinton's Message

JN0403154296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized importance of the independent Palestinian decision.

In a speech before tens of thousands of citizens who gathered at the Unknown Soldier Square in front of the Legislative Council headquarters in Gaza at noon today, President 'Arafat said: Yes to a just peace and to the independent Palestinian state. No to violence, and no to decisions imported from abroad aimed at destroying the national objectives of our people.

President 'Arafat, whose speech was interrupted by nationalist chants condemning the violent operations, said there has been an attempt to strike at the Palestinian people and the peace process, and to undermine the living conditions of the Palestinian people and deny bread to their children and families.

The president added: We will not allow any party to resort to violence or use weapons. He said the only legitimate weapon is that of the National Authority.

Legislative Council member al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim emphasized that our people have aborted attempts by some quarters to ignite a civil war in the Gaza Strip and obstruct the national achievements.

He said: Our people are determined to continue the peace march and democracy. He added: No to a militia state.

'Abd-al-Rahim said: The Palestinian people are passing through sensitive and delicate circumstances, especially with the approaching negotiations on the final status and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Area B.

Meanwhile, President 'Arafat received a written message from U.S. President Bill Clinton, conveyed by the U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington in a meeting at the president's office today.

The U.S. President emphasized his support for the peace process and U.S. support for the Palestinian people and their leadership in the face of challenges. Clinton expressed support for the measures adopted by President 'Arafat to face these challenges.

President 'Arafat received a phone call from French President Jacques Chirac today in which he expressed his country's support for the peace process. The French president lauded the recent Palestinian measures and steps, which he described as courageous.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Za'nun: —Hamas Members Receiving Orders From Iran, Syria

JN0403153396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council, disclosed today that three members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation participating in the dialogue with the National Authority in Cairo are receiving orders from Iran and some Arab countries.

This was revealed in a speech delivered in front of the Legislative Council headquarters to a crowd gathered to condemn the violent actions and the recent bombings.

Al-Za'nun said the Palestinian people are the ones who have the right to self-determination, not those who make statements in Damascus and Tehran.

Palestinian Affairs: Splinter Group Condemns Jerusalem Explosion

JN0403155696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command today condemned the explosion that occurred in occupied Jerusalem. In a statement, the command said the bombing was mainly targeted against the interests of the Palestinian people and their National Authority.

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Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio Reports Tel Aviv Explosion

JN0403145896 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1432 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother citizens, we have just received the following: Citing the Zionist enemy police, AFP said that a number of Zionists were killed today in a bus explosion in the city of Tel Aviv, inside the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948, and that a number of Zionists were wounded.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Leader on 'Tense' Relations With PA

TA0303120196 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 29 Feb 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS — A member of the elected Palestinian Legislative Council [PLC] and a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member have described relations between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas in the wake of last Sunday's [25 February] Jerusalem and Ashqelon attacks as "tense."

Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, met yesterday with Marwan Kanafani, a member of the elected PLC at the latter's home. Abu-Musamih said that "current relations are somewhat tense because of the large-scale arrests."

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Abu-Musamih said that he regrets these arrests, stressing that they are an Israeli ploy to create a rift within the Palestinian house. He added: "We oppose this approach." He expressed the hope that the crisis will be overcome soon.

Kanafani affirmed that the meeting with Abu-Musamih was not official since he currently holds no position in the PA. He explained that the meeting's aim was to reach a solution and understanding that will protect Palestinian blood.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Syria-Israel Talks Postponed Following Bombings

TA0303171396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz has just reported from Washington that the Israeli-Syrian talks will not be resumed tomorrow as scheduled. The decision was made a short while ago and is the result of the Jerusalem bombings. No new date for the resumption of the talks has been announced. The decision was coordinated with the U.S. delegation and communicated to the Syrian delegation.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Damascus Radio Reports U.S. Statement on Maryland Talks

JN0203064696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—U.S. State Department Spokesman Glynn Davies announced that the Syrian-Israeli talks, which resumed two days ago, were detailed and constructive. In a statement to reporters, he added that the Syrian and Israeli delegations basically focused on security issues, which have topped the agenda of the Syrian-Israeli talks since their resumption in December 1995. It was announced that the two delegations decided to resume their negotiations on Monday.

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Algeria

Algeria: Iraqi Envoy Briefs President on Talks With UN

LD0303200896 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual received the Iraqi vice president and Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, this morning at the presidency. [passage omitted] After the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan made the following statement.

[Begin Ramadan recording] Our visit is within the framework of the fraternal relations between the two countries, and on the instruction of President Saddam Husayn for us to brief the Algerian leadership and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual on the latest developments in relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council and to study the prospect of developing and expanding bilateral cooperation between two brotherly Arab countries which are facing challenges that are different but have the same objective, namely conspiracy to undermine the the most significant, greatest, and most effective capabilities of two important Arab countries in the Arab arena.

We found in President Liamine Zeroual great understanding and a genuine pan-Arab stance, which has been expressed by the Algerian Government and people during the difficult past few years. [end recording]

Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Rejects Ghali Statement on UN Resolution

LD0403082296 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] After recalling the first round of oil sale talks between Baghdad and the UN Security Council which was conducted on the principle of oil-for-food and medicine, the Iraqi official expressed hope that the second round of talks, to take place on 11 March, would be clearer and would achieve positive results. He pointed out that regardless of the outcome of the dialogue, the situation will be temporary and not an alternative to a complete lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq.

He refuted the statement of UN Secretary General Butros-Ghali regarding Iraq's acceptance of UN Resolution No. 986, reiterating Baghdad's position which rejects the resolution. This resolution, he said, aims at undermining the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq and constitutes interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Regarding the situation in Iraq as a result of the sanctions, the Iraqi vice president reaffirmed that the sanctions have increased the number of deaths, especially among children and the elderly due to a shortage of medicine and the obstacles standing against its export, and that no deal to purchase this basic material can be concluded without the approval of the sanctions committee.

Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Calls Talks 'Exceptionally Positive'

JN0403123796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 4 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn, left Algiers this morning at the conclusion of an official visit to Algeria as part of his current tour of several Arab countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed an oral message to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual from President Saddam Husayn on bilateral ties and ways of promoting them. The message also concerns the relationship between Iraq and the United Nations in light of the ongoing dialogue on oil for food, medicine, and other basic requirements for the Iraqi people. The vice president also briefed the Algerian president on the steps taken by Iraq thus far to implement UN resolutions and the international organization's responsibility to fulfill its reciprocal commitments toward Iraq, especially with regard to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 stipulating lifting the Iraq blockade.

In a statement to the INA correspondent at the Houari Boumediene Airport, the president's special envoy expressed his satisfaction with the significant results of the visit. He said: We sensed a positive atmosphere and pan-Arab feelings on the part of all Algerian officials, especially President Zeroual. I did not feel that we are two sides discussing joint issues; we were one side.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his great happiness at visiting fraternal Algeria. He pointed out that the visit was exceptionally positive compared with all previous visits to this fraternal country. He said: I wish the leadership and people of this Arab country further progress and prosperity, because any success achieved by this country is a success for Iraq and the Arab nation.

The president's special envoy was seen off at the airport by Mokdad Sifi, minister of state at the Republic's Presidency [title as heard] and representative of President Zeroual; al-Hasan Musawi, minister designate for cooperation and Maghreb affairs at the Republic's Presidency; several Algerian officials; Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd-al-Karim al-Mulla; and the embassy staff.

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Algeria: Iraq's Ramadan Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0403114496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi vice president and President's Saddam Husayn's special envoy, left Algeria this morning following a two-day visit. Bidding him farewell at Houari Boumediene International Airport, were messrs Mokdad Sifi, minister of state to the presidency; Lahcene Moussaoui, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs, and Iraq's ambassador to Algeria.

Algeria: FLN Committee Statement Condemns Violence, Hails Elections

LD0203192596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the National Liberation Front [FLN] issued a statement at the end of its regular session which was held recently [in Algiers].

In the statement, the FLN condemned violence, considered the elections as an enhancement of the legitimacy of the highest institute in the country and said that serious dialogue was liable to find a political solution to the crisis.

The FLN Central Committee expressed condemnation of the use of violence as a means of imposing opinions and the subsequent killing, destruction, and destroying of the country's installations and the property of its citizens and the undermining of the state's dignity domestically and abroad.

The committee called for participation in containing the fire of sedition and in trying to quell it. At the same time, the committee stressed its constant readiness to participate in every joint action to deliver the country out of its ordeal.

The FLN Central Committee said that the presidential election, which was organized for the first time during the era of pluralism, had enhanced the legitimacy of the highest institute in the country. It considered the high turnout during the presidential election at home and abroad a clear expression of the citizens' adherence to their basic sovereign right and a call from the heart of society to halt the bloodshed, restore peace and stability, and heal the wounds of the widows and the orphans.

The statement added that the FLN Central Committee noted that serious dialogue was liable to find a political solution to the crisis which the country is experiencing.

Algeria: FLN Committee Calls For National Reconciliation

LD0203232496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee called on the party's secretary general and political bureau to make further efforts to achieve national reconciliation and national concord which aim at a comprehensive and peaceful solution as a way out for the country's crisis, to enable the people to choose their representatives freely and to continue the electoral march.

Algeria: Zeroual Makes New Presidency, Foreign Affairs Appointments

LD0203163396 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual today has appointed Abdelkader Taffar adviser on international issues and cooperation at the Presidency, succeeding Miohoub Mihoubi who was appointed minister of communications and culture. [passage omitted]

In addition, Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Attaf has installed Amar Bendjemaa as secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. succeeding Abdelkader Taffar. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Trade Union Confederation Postpones 3 Mar Strike

LD0103203596 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the autonomous Trade Union Confederation, CSA, today announced the postponement of the strike it called for earlier that was scheduled for tomorrow, 5 March [date as heard]. The confederation informed all its members and workers that it had decided to postpone the strike after a thorough study of recent developments.

Algeria: Mutilated Body of Kidnapped Cameraman Found

LD0203200396 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us remain with the profession of journalism and the criminal acts against its members. Belkacem Saadi, head cameraman at Constantine Television Center, has been found slain in one of Skikda's woods. He was kidnapped earlier by rancorous criminals who were not just happy to murder him; as usual, they also mutilated his corpse.

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Belkacem Saadi left behind five children, the eldest is five years old and the youngest was only born two weeks ago. We have decided not show pictures of his [mutilated body] in order not to upset his family and not hurt your feelings. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Security Forces Kill 28 'Criminals'

LD0303223696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the security services announced today that their forces had eliminated 28 criminals in various operations carried out in the provinces of Algiers, Blida, Bouira, Chlef, Relizane, Constantine, and Media. The security forces also managed in the above operations to recover automatic rifles, hunting rifles, homemade bombs, and a number of seditious leaflets, the statement added.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak Contacts Peres, 'Arafat on Bombing

NC0303203096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak tonight telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and expressed condolences over the victims of the terrorist incident that took place in Jerusalem this morning. President Mubarak also expressed his condolences to the victims' family.

Egypt had earlier condemned the terrorist incident immediately after it happened. President Mubarak sent a message to Shim'on Peres which was conveyed by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

President Mubarak also sent an urgent message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat immediately after the incident. The message was conveyed by Dr. Usamah al-Baz. This action was part of President Mubarak's efforts to contain the consequences of the recent terrorist incidents.

Egypt: Musa Condemns Jerusalem Bombing, Signs Accord With Slovenia

NC0303163296 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reaffirmed Egypt's condemnation of the bombing of an Israeli bus in Jerusalem this morning. He strongly regretted the continuation of such serious incidents against innocent people.

Speaking this afternoon at a joint news conference with the visiting Slovenian foreign minister, Musa said extremists on both sides must not be allowed to stop the peace process, which would lead us to Palestinian self-determination and to balanced and fair relations between Palestine and Israel. He said that these incidents, ugly as they are, should not drive either side to stop the peace process.

Official talks between Egypt and Slovenia concluded at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. An agreement for cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation between the two sides was signed at the end of the talks, which were chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Egypt: Musa Blames 'Extremists on Both Sides' for Bus Bombing

NC0303132696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Commenting on the explosion of an Israeli bus in Jerusalem this morning, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated: "Such incidents indicate the insistence of the extremists on both sides on sabotaging the peace process. These extremists must not be given a chance to wreck a process which will lead to the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and to the solution of the Palestinian issue on the basis of Israel's withdrawal."

Demanding that peace be given a full chance, Musa added that "such incidents target innocent people and benefit only the enemies of peace and stability." He referred to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's clear stance of condemning such incidents.

Musa underlined Egypt's condemnation of these incidents and said: "I urge that these incidents not affect the peace process. Suspending the negotiations means succumbing to the plots and maneuvers which aim to wreck the peace process and keep the situation as it is in the West Bank. The parties must do all they can to stop incitement and agitation between the two sides."

Egypt: Musa on Palestinian-Israeli Talks, Arab, Russian Ties

NC0203181496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that there is an opportunity to emerge from the situation facing the peace process.

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In statements today, he said all parties are unanimous on maintaining the Palestinian-Israeli track because the Palestinian question is a basic and pivotal issue for comprehensive peace.

He noted that the measures implemented so far are important and conducive to the final-phase negotiations expected in the coming months. He added that contacts are continuing and are bound to achieve positive results.

Musa was asked about the impact of Israeli elections on the peace process and about Israeli leaders adopting radical stands. He said the "fiery" slogans and stands accompanying the elections should be taken into consideration. He added that Egypt is carefully following this matter and we are confident that all parties cannot retreat from what has been achieved. He noted that what has been done so far is a transitional phase and therefore negotiations will continue, noting that talks over the final phase are the basic negotiations that face major problems.

Asked whether the negotiations are expected to be suspended until the Israeli elections are over, he said they should not be suspended at all.

As regards inter-Arab relations, Foreign Minister Musa stressed the need to stimulate the Arab League's role. He said there are Egyptian papers and concepts on the Arab code of honor for security and cooperation which will be submitted to the next session of the Arab League Ministerial Council. He referred to President Husni Mubarak's speech marking the league's 50th anniversary and to his call to devise an Arab code of honor.

He added: We expect the Arab code of honor to be approved. However, what is important is not its ratification, but implementing and respecting it and the belief in its importance.

Commenting on Egyptian-Russian ties, Musa said the "Russia and the Arab World" conference, due to be convened in Cairo, may provide the groundwork for economic cooperation between Egypt and Russia. He noted that this cooperation must be consolidated and that both Egypt and Russia will benefit from the conference.

Musa commented on the European-Asian summit that ended in Bangkok today. He said: This summit is a strong message for all of us that the Europeans traveled all this distance to Southeast Asia because the Southeast Asian countries have achieved success in economic reform and become a strong rival or partner in world economics. He noted that the Asian countries' trade share represents a quarter of world trade. This is what we should do here. We should have done it but we were late, he said.

Egypt: Bulgarian Envoy Denies 'Terrorist' al-Zawahiri in Bulgaria

NC0303070196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Khristou has categorically denied that [Egyptian] terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri is in Bulgaria. He said that no person with this name has entered Bulgaria. He also denied that any person with this name had requested political asylum in Bulgaria.

In a press statement following his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight, the Bulgarian official said his country is fully prepared to cooperate with Egypt in combating terrorism and to extend all help and assistance to Egypt in this field. He said Egypt and Bulgaria are cooperating in all fields that contribute to the two countries' security. [passage omitted]

Egypt: New 'Terrorist Movement' Uncovered in al-Sharqiyah

NC0103124096 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Feb 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] State security investigations have uncovered a new terrorist movement, whose members belong to the so-called Islamic Grouping, who planned to carry out criminal sabotage activities against numerous vital targets and security institutions and some policemen in al-Sharqiyah Governorate. Eighteen defendants from the cadres of the movement were arrested—among them were many students from al-Zaqaziq university. The Higher State Security Prosecution, under the supervision of Attorney General Counselor Hisham Saraya, is proceeding with investigations of the defendants. AL-AHRAM's correspondent Ahmad Musa learned that the new movement wanted to open a new front for terrorist operations in al-Sharqiyah Governorate to offset the siege imposed on the grouping's members in Asyut. He also learned that the dangerous leader Muhammad Yusuf, an armed member of the grouping, formed the new terrorist movement, which counted on mobilizing and arming students and workers in various sectors. The confessions of the movement members revealed that organizational meetings took place in various hideouts as well as at the university campus building in al-Zaqaziq and houses of worship. The movement members also revealed that they monitored the places and people who were targets of their sabotage activities.

In another development, 50 terrorists from the al-Jihad organization are expected to be referred to military courts within the next few days. Topping these will

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be Akram 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sharif, who has a British passport, and Yasir Tawfiq al-Sirri, a fugitive from a death sentence who was granted political asylum recently in London. The organization had plans to assassinate a number of officials in Cairo and al-Jizah.

Egypt: World Urged To Support Mideast Peace, Contain Violence

NC0303142696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Middle East Peace Needs the Support of All Peace-Loving Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Middle East peace process is now witnessing developments that, to say the least, are violently shaking the hopes of the peoples of the region, who aspire to see progress in the peace process and an end to the chain of violence and counterviolence. Since the bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon [on 25 February], or indeed since the killing of Yahya 'Ayyash and, before him, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, there has been a growing fever of hardline statements by extremist leaders on both the Palestinian and Israeli camps, with threats to undermine the peace process and take the region back to the language of violence, oppression, bombs, and gunfire.

Without going into the details of those incidents, we can generally say that they directly threaten the future of peace in the Middle East and the regional and international efforts being made to solve the Palestinian problem and return the Palestinian land to its rightful owners. Also, these incidents strongly sound the alarm that the region may once again be dragged into the cycles of violence and oppression, and that the wheel may move backward with the escalation of extremism and the marginalization of the voices of reason and the weakening of peace advocates.

In light of this, Egypt made enlightened moves. It contacted all concerned parties to contain the incidents and maintain the necessary impetus for the peace process, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track. In this context, Cairo contacted Tel Aviv and Washington parallel to its continuous contacts with the Palestinian National Authority. Egypt wanted to keep the peace process away from the spears of the extremists and the spite of the rejectionists. Proceeding from its pioneering role in advancing the peace process and from its desire to create good circumstances to perpetuate the concept of peace among the peoples of the region, Egypt believes that these passing incidents, no matter what their declared objectives are, must not lead to a halt to the peace process, and they must not undermine sincere attempts to solve the Palestinian problem.

There is obviously an anti-peace mentality behind these incidents. It is extremely dangerous to give these incidents a chance to achieve their political objective of torpedoing the peace process and returning the region to the influence of political extremists, who find their future only in reactivating violence and in pushing the entire region toward endless wars and conflicts.

While explaining to everybody the importance of adherence to the peace process and removal of the feelings of anger and revenge, Egypt stresses the need for both the Palestinians and the Israelis to deal wisely with these incidents. They should stop making fiery or extremist statements that only facilitate the mission of the rejectionists as they are out to undermine the peace process. It is absolutely illogical for some officials in Tel Aviv to make extremist calls for collective punishment against the Palestinians in the self-rule areas, for continued closure of the West Bank and Gaza, and for cutting off water, electricity, and telephone contact in the Palestinian regions with a view to launching a full war of starvation. Blaming the Palestinian self-rule authority for the incidents, which take place in areas under Israeli control, is also wrong, illogical, and unwise.

The peace process, which some extremists are not happy with because it conflicts their deviant objectives of keeping the spirit of hatred and permanent conflict in the region, needs that all peace-loving forces in the region and the rest of the world join forces to support it and meet, with a team spirit and with enlightened common understanding, the requirements of this stage. They need to confront all developments that seek to hinder the march and move the region backward.

Peace, which is a demand for all peoples, is inevitably coming. These passing incidents and unreasonable or unacceptable statements are nothing but hasty reactions that we must ignore. When the just peace is achieved and all peoples feel the fruits of peace — security, prosperity, and reassurance — all these incidents will stop forever, and the region, with all its states and peoples, will have a promising present and a hopeful future.

Egypt: PLO's Qaddumi Arrives in Cairo

NC0103220796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days.

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He will meet with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials to discuss the latest developments in the peace process in the wake of the Jerusalem and Ashqelon bombings.

Ambassador Husni al-'Uja'zi, assistant foreign minister and director of protocol; and Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah received Qaddumi on his arrival.

Egypt: Minister—Japan To Participate in Prospecting for Oil, Gas

NC0103193696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 1 Mar (MENA) — Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has stated that a major Japanese company will, for the first time, participate in oil and natural gas prospecting in Egypt. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Damascus, the minister added that an agreement has been reached according to which the Japanese company will begin its exploration in areas west of the western desert. This proves that Japan has entered the field of foreign investment, he added. [passage omitted]

Touching on the recent contacts with Israel concerning cooperation in the field of natural gas, Minister al-Banbi said that the contacts are continuing on the technical level. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Labor Official Criticizes Privatization Plans

NC0103195096 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Feb p 1

[Report by Amin Taha Mursi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Though the General Federation of the Labor Unions [GFLU] issued a statement yesterday supporting the decisions to privatize some of the public sector companies, GFLU chairman al-Sayyid Rashid has expressed reservations about this program and the government's way of implementing it. He stressed that the government's method of implementing the sale of the public sector violates President Husni Mubarak's statements in which he repeatedly asserted his commitment and strong desire to keep the public sector and maintain its huge industrial citadels. He also stressed that any infringement on the public sector would be an infringement on national sovereignty and that he would not allow any measure that would harm Egypt's dignity.

He added: The GFLU and union leaders were surprised at recent decisions that were made by the government without referring to or consulting with union leaders. We have repeatedly tried to arrange a meeting through the GFLU with Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri. Regrettably, all attempts have failed, although the prime minister has met with other parties, especially businessmen, ignoring the fact that workers are the principal social partners who have the task of protecting this homeland's economic program through their production.

Al-Sayyid Rashid said: Unfortunately, neither current nor previous prime ministers have visited the GFLU building since 1992 or even several years prior. The GFLU's reservations about the government's method of offering the public sector's units for sale stem from the fact that the labor union movement has drawn up an alternative program out of its concern for and commitment to the Egyptian economy's integrity and strength. This alternative is summed up as follows: The world has started to back down on implementing the economic privatization programs which ignore the public and private economy's social role.

The United States still has a public sector. It also still has the right to supervise and intervene in all industrial establishments owned by the private sector. For example, companies that produce military equipment and cars cannot deviate from the government's guidelines on the volume of production, quality, and price. This is based on the U.S. Administration's view of local and international markets. The conditions imposed by the U.S. Administration on farmers confirm this. It determines the areas to be planted with wheat in order to protect the price of U.S. wheat in world markets—the wheat which the U.S. Administration uses as a tool for political pressure. It does not come as a surprise when the U.S. Administration instructs its farmers to dump their wheat surplus in rivers and seas so as not to disturb the price of U.S. wheat in world markets.

Additionally, we have not heard of any case where the U.S. Federal Government or the state governments have abandoned their social role toward the U.S. citizen.

The GFLU chairman added: The World Bank's new management has spoken of the extreme risks to the world economy involved in implementing privatization plans without a social dimension. There is a retreat from privatization now, a reassessment. The international trend now is to return to a full state role in planning, guidance, and participation in the country's economy. This is necessary to maintain a social balance. This is not communist or socialist talk but is really the view of Western economic experts.

Hence I am astonished by the government's haste in putting the public sector up for sale. If the government is doing so to implement an agreement it has signed, then we say that this agreement is not holy scripture or a constitution. We have the right to implement it in our own way and by our own free will and in a manner that

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does not infringe on Egypt's national sovereignty just as President Husni Mubarak has made clear.

Rashid continued: Nevertheless I welcome privatization if it means expanding the ownership base. This should be done in the following way:

First, the assets of all public sector companies should be reevaluated not on the basis of their book value, but on the basis of their current market value. There is a big difference between the prices of the 1960's and the prices of the 1990's. Moreover, the growth of assets was the result of the efforts made by Egyptian workers. It is known as value surplus. When the Constitution specifies that the public sector is the people's common property, it is expressing a real fact: namely, that the growth of the public sector and the addition of production units to it is the result of the efforts and sweat of Egyptian workers. Hence, the workers must be consulted before any procedures are carried out.

Secondly, after the evaluation of assets by Egyptian nationalist experts with the help of union leaders, agreement can be reached on ways of expanding the ownership base, although I know that we disagree on this now. We propose that the privatization plan focus on ways of encouraging Egyptian capital, whose deposits in Egyptian banks are an estimated 180 billion pounds. These deposits are not fully exploited, meaning they are stagnant funds. Additionally there are $50 billion of Egyptian funds abroad. We must revive the patriotic sense of responsibility among the people who have this capital so that they will personally or via the banks buy public sector shares, even up to the point of buying 100 percent of the shares. In this way we can then declare that we have implemented the government's agreement with the IMF. We set one condition: The revenue that the government obtains from the personal funds used to buy public sector shares must then be used to finance new public sector projects and not funneled to the public treasury. Only this will invigorate the national industry and economy and make them internationally competitive without suffering adverse GATT effects.

Al-Sayyid Rashid went on to say: There is another point concerning the workers' shares which I would like to clarify. We have read and heard that the Algerian Labor Federation has become the government's partner in implementing the privatization program in the way imposed by the federation and respected by the government, despite the Algerian Labor Federation's deep hatred for the World Bank and IMF officials.

The Algerian workers' agreement with the government resulted in the following:

1. No sales to foreigners.
2. Workers will own 25 percent of the shares. The government will finance them in full in easy installments. The government will also underwrite the value of 20 percent of the overall workers' shares.

Additionally, the workers' ownership of shares will be a nominal one, or what is usually known as the factory or work share, just like the industrial housing that will be provided for the worker only during his employment.

This will be applied to the workers' shares, that is, the shares will not be allowed to be traded on the shares market or disposed of by individuals as long as these are nominal shares under the full control of the union of worker shareholders. We are working to establish a general central union to supervise all the unions of worker shareholders in all companies.

As for financing, there are two views. The first is to increase the percentage of shares allocated to workers to 20 percent with a quarter of them being free as a gift for workers to encourage investments in the public sector in the same way that businessmen and investors are encouraged.

The second view believes it is necessary to sell shares to workers in easy installments and interest free. This view is ruled out although there are other views, such as selling shares to workers by deducting the shares price in installments from the production incentives and bonuses, as is happening in housing.

The GFLU chairman concluded by saying:

Therefore, the GFLU is still insisting that the government not implement its program to sell the public sector until after a meeting is held with Dr. al-Janzuri. This meeting should not be held just for the sake of having one or for enjoying the prime minister's visit to the GFLU building, but for agreement and coordination on Egypt's economic future, which is the workers' primary concern.

Hence, we propose the formation of a joint committee from the cabinet office and the GFLU to review the government's way of selling the public sector.

Libya

Libya: Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets With Cuban Official

LD0203231896 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation conferred in the town of Surt

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this afternoon with Jorge Lezcano [Perez], chairman of the Cuban National Assembly Commission for External Affairs, and his accompanying delegation, who are on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the meeting, they examined relations of friendship between the two countries and the means of bolstering them in all fields.

Libya: Cuban Official Reiterates Support for Regime

LD0203233196 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jorge Lezcano [Perez], chairman of the Cuban National Assembly's External Relations Commission, has reiterated his country's support for the Great Jamahiriyah's challenge to the unjust sanctions imposed against it.

In a statement to JANA yesterday, he indicated his happiness at his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, which coincides with the celebrations marking the 19th anniversary of the proclamation of the people's power and the birth of the first ever Jamahiriyah.

He said in his statement: I came here carrying the greetings and the appreciations of President Castro and the Cuban people to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people.

Furthermore, he also stressed the bonds of friendship between the two countries and reiterated Cuba's determination to defend itself against any American provocation and resolve not to be intimidated by the American practices against freedom-loving peoples that reject its hegemony.

Morocco

Morocco: King Receives 'Congratulation Message' From Saddam Husayn

LD0303184396 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The following congratulations message to His Majesty the King Hassan II arrived from the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn:

While the brotherly Moroccan people are celebrating its national day, we have the pleasure to send your majesty, on behalf of Iraq and myself personally, the best and warmest fraternal wishes, wishing you good health and happiness, for the brotherly Moroccan people progress and prosperity and for the relations between our countries further development and growth for the good of our glorious Arab nation.

Sudan

Sudan: Rebel Faction Announces Unilateral Cease-Fire

AB0203130896 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 02 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, March 2 (AFP) — A faction of the Sudanese rebel movement said Saturday it had declared a unilateral ceasefire in its war with fighters of a rival group and Sudanese government forces.

David de Chand, spokesman for the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), said the faction's leader Riak Machar had on Thursday [29 February] ordered his fighters to stop fighting and respond to attacks only in self defence.

De Chand said the ceasefire was intended to facilitate a planned reconvening of a peace initiative sponsored by the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which groups six east African countries.

SSIM broke away from the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1991. Since the split both factions have spent much of their time fighting each other for the control of key towns, amid accusations of collusion with the Khartoum regime. [passage omitted]

De Chand accused SPLA forces of "persistently harassing" displaced people in Dima, Panyindu and Tharpam refugee camps in southwestern Ethiopia. SPLA attacks in the camps resulted in the death of 40 people in the camps on February 21, he added. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Movement Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

EA0303134296 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1000 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) has declared a unilateral cease-fire with the Sudanese Government to pave the way for IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] peace initiative.

Speaking to KTN, the movement's spokesman Mr. David de Chand, said the chairman and c-in-c of SSIM, Dr. Riak Machar, declared the cease-fire following the recent talks between President Daniel arap Moi and Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir in Nairobi. The cease-fire which took effect on 29th February is meant to facilitate the flow of humanitarian relief assistance to those in need. All SSIM forces have therefore been ordered to remain in their bases and at maximum alert and to respond to any attacks only in the act of self-

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defense. Chand appealed to IGADD member states to intervene and safeguard the security and the rights of the refugees in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the UN Charter.

Sudan: Armed Forces Spokesman Welcomes Rebels' Cease-Fire

EA0203181296 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman of the Armed Forces, Staff General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad, said the Sudanese Armed Forces welcomed the cease-fire declaration, announced by Dr. Riak Machar's group especially as such an announcement came when the country was passing through the transition of building its political system, crowned by the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Armed Forces official spokesman went on to say that the cease-fire declaration by Riak Machar's group was a positive addition to the government's endeavors to achieve peace from within. This represented the government's goodwill after the failure of past attempts in Abuja and Nairobi.

Sudan: Government Declares Cease-Fire in South

AB0203181796 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT 02 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, March 2 (AFP) — The Khartoum government declared a ceasefire in fighting in south Sudan starting midnight Saturday, Armed Forces spokesman Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad said.

The government declaration came "in response to the ceasefire announcement made by the Riak Machar militia," a splinter faction from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), 'Abd-al-Qadir said.

The spokesman did not specify the extent or duration of the ceasefire.

'Abd-al-Qadir expressed his hopes that "this initiative will be a good sign toward reaching a comprehensive peace" in the 12-year-old civil war between mostly Christian and animist southern rebels and the Moslem north. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Qadir expressed his "dismay at the delinquincy" of the main southern rebel group SPLA, which he said had "fallen into the arms of mercenaries and is only continuing the war and deepening the wounds."

Khartoum has "good intentions" and "genuinely seeks to acheive peace and rehabilitate a united Sudan," he said.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Popular Defense Forces, an Islamic pro-government militia, announced it would send another "legion of Mujahedeen volunteers to back up the armed forces there."

PDF Commander Mohammed Hassan Saddeq said the new legion was "part of a general mobilization effort to defeat the enemies and rebels on the country's southern borders."

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Shiite Muslim Unrest Continues; 70 More Arrested

NC0103154796 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Mar 1, (AFP) — Bahraini authorities have arrested another 70 people, including a dozen women, as part of a crackdown on Shiite Moslem unrest, witnesses and opposition members said Friday [1 March].

According to residents of Shiite areas in Bahrain contacted from Nicosia, at least 70 people were arrested in 48 hours in Bani Jamrah, Jannusan, al-Diraz, and Sanabis, west of Manama, as well as in Sitra to the south.

Among those arrested was Muna Habib, a daughter-in-law of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, the principal Shiite opposition leader in Bahrain who has been in jail since January 22.

The Movement for the Liberation of Bahrain (MLB) said the arrests were "aimed at preventing anti-government demonstrations during the March 10 meeting in Manama on economic cooperation between the Gulf and the United States."

Lawyers and opposition leaders said in early February that more than 2,000 people had been arrested in Bahrain since the end of December.

The London-based MLB also accused the Sunni Moslem-led authorities in Bahrain of perpetrating violent acts in the country to "portray the political crisis as a security issue."

"The government has desperately tried to persuade international public opinion that it is facing a terrorist danger and not a movement of popular demands," the MLB said.

Bahrain's opposition has led a campaign of civil unrest since December 1994 in an effort to force the government to free jailed Shiite leaders and restore parliament.

Bahrain: Tehran Daily Reports Bomb Explosion in Manama Suburb

NC0203071496 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Feb 96 p 15

[IRNA Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A homemade bomb exploded on Sunday night [25 February] near a government newspaper building in Jufayr in the vicinity of Manama.

According to AFP reporting from Manama, an employee of the newspaper AL-AYYAM stated that a time bomb exploded around 2030 [1800 GMT] and destroyed two armored carriers and the newspaper editor's automobile.

This is the fourth bomb that has exploded in Bahrain since the middle of the month of Dey [22 December-22 January]. For the past two months, this emirate has been the venue of anti-government protests.

Bahrain: State Minister Comments on Riots, Dispute With Qatar

JN0203172696 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 2 Mar (WAKH) — Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of cabinet affairs and information of the State of Bahrain, asserted that the situation in Bahrain has not been affected by the various riots that have happened in the country for certain purposes.

In a statement to VOA, the Bahraini minister clarified that security forces got these riots under control with the help of all citizens. He pointed out that a small group of people is trying to impose its opinion by force. This, he said, is being rejected by all sectors of the Bahraini people, who enjoy unity and cooperation and who are seeking stability to achieve greater development and prosperity, which have prevailed in the homeland since independence.

He said that dialogue on the country's affairs is a matter of fact, pointing out that legal channels, such as specialized and technical councils, societies, governmental departments, and the Consultative Council, discuss laws of interest to the citizens and the homeland.

Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' asserted that the economic situation in Bahrain has not been affected by riots, and said that the country is exerting its utmost effort to activate economy, encourage investment, and enact investment laws to promote national economy.

He also said that the world, as well as investors, knows that these incidents will have no noticeable effect on security and stability.

Turning to the Bahraini-Qatari dispute, al-Mutawwa' said Bahrain asked the International Court of Justice to postpone its inquiry into the dispute and that the court agreed to the request because it believes in Bahrain's viewpoint.

He added that the court had agreed to look into all subjects of dispute, particularly Bahrain's claim to al-Zubarah, expressing his belief that a brotherly solution is the best way to establish strong relations among the states.

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Kuwait

Kuwait: Parliament Seeks Probe of Defense Ministry Corruption

JN0403091596 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Feb 96 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Abu-Qadir; "Special to the ARAB TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuwait city, Feb 13—Twenty-one members of parliament on Tuesday submitted an urgent motion to form an investigation committee to probe into new allegations of corruption and irregularities at the Ministry of Defense.

The government acted swiftly and stalled the move using its constitutional right to postpone a discussion on the request for two weeks. Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan said the investigation committee was not needed because the Ministry of Defense denied the allegations. [passage omitted]

During the discussion over the request to form an investigation committee for the Ministry of Defense, MPs insisted that an investigation committee was needed to probe contracts for the supply of food and equipment.

Al-Rawdan said that the issue must first be discussed by a committee and if it is proved there was a violation then an investigation committee should be formed.

In their motion, MPs demanded that the proposed committee probes into contracts for the supply of food, equipment and other services for the Ministry of Defense.

They demanded that the committee should look into those contracts and see if they were done in accordance with the laws.

The motion was submitted after the publication of reports alleging that the value of a contract to supply food to American warships was highly inflated by the contractors.

The reports said that the price of the materials was increased several times, in some cases 12 times [more] than the price available in the market. It was reported that the ministry paid the inflated amount.

But the Ministry of Defense officially denied the reports. In an advertisement published in the Arab press, the ministry categorically denied it has paid the money.

But it admitted that it received bills from certain contractors asking for payment. The ministry refused to pay on the basis that "We did not ask them to provide the supplies." the ministry added that it told the contractors to "go to those who issued the orders."

Kuwait: Details on Alleged Defense Ministry Food Scandal Published

JN0403093296 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15-16 Feb 96 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait city, Feb 14—As the Ministry of Defense remained tight-lipped on new allegations of financial irregularities, more details were made available Wednesday on the new scandal.

Al-Tali'ah magazine, which made the allegations last Wednesday, published yesterday what it said copies of bills submitted by contractors to the Defense Ministry as a proof to its original story.

The publication came after the Ministry denied the allegations saying the bills were never entertained by the ministry as none of those contractors was asked to make the supplies.

But Al-Tali'ah also confirmed that the ministry has in fact accepted the bills and that after "honest officials" refused to pay, the ministry wrote back to the contractors inquiring why the prices were inflated.

In its statement, the ministry of defense admitted that the bills were submitted by private contractors asking the ministry to pay.

But, the statement added, the ministry did not accept the bills saying that they were not authorized by the ministry to make the supplies.

The problem dates back to summer last year when a number of American, French and British warships docked at Kuwaiti ports.

According to the reports, a number of local shipping companies were recruited to provide the necessary supply of provisions. The supplies were made and the bills were sent to the Ministry of Defense for payment.

The bills were referred to the financial section and some officials refused to pay because the prices were too exaggerated.

According to the bills, oranges were sold for 400 fils each, green applies for KD [Kuwaiti dinars] 4,740 a kilo, lettuce KD 12 for each, potatoes KD 4,800 a kilo, tomatoes KD 5,800 a kilo, fresh garlic KD 9.440 a kilo, carrots KD 3.760 a kilo, bananas KD 5.760 a kilo, a trash box KD 250, eggs KD 2.400 a dozen, Lipton Tea KD 4.800 a packet, lamb KD 9.300 a kilo, chicken KD 8.750 a kilo, shrimps KD 25 a kilo, frozen fish KD 32 a kilo, Basmati rice KD 2.140 a kilo and many others.

Answering the ministry inquiry about the expensive prices in the bills, one of the contractors wrote saying it was aimed "to keep up with the image and reputation

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of the ministry of defense before our guests". It was not immediately known what happened to the bills.

Kuwait: Qatar Asks for Extradition of Coup Plotter

NC0203214796 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, March 2 (AFP) — Qatar has asked Kuwait to extradite a Qatari implicated in a failed coup in Doha two weeks ago, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah said Saturday [2 March].

Shaykh Al Sabah told reporters Kuwait had "received an extradition request" from Qatar, but said it could not be granted because "this person is not in Kuwait."

Qatar said Thursday it was to ask Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to extradite a dozen people who fled to those countries after the coup attempt on February 17. It did not, however, mention Kuwait.

Qatar has accused its former amir, Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, now living in Abu Dhabi, of organizing the coup attempt. He was deposed by his son in June last year.

Shaykh Al Sabah also said Kuwait had no objections to an emergency meeting of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council at the request of Qatar to discuss the failed coup if other members agreed.

Qatar asked on February 23 for a special session of the GCC — which groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the UAE — but has not received a response.

Shaykh Al Sabah said, however, that GCC foreign ministers were already scheduled to meet on March 16 in Riyadh and that Qatar could be discussed then.

Relations between Qatar and its Gulf neighbours have been strained since a dispute over a key GCC appointment in December. Oman was the only GCC member to condemn the failed coup bid.

Shaykh Al Sabah also told reporters that his country's relations with Jordan were "returning to normal," five years after they were broken when Amman was accused of supporting Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Jordanian embassy in Kuwait would be reopened "in due time," he said.

Kuwait: Security Authorities Accuse Woman of Spying for Iraq

JN0403092396 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Feb 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Feb 13—A suspected Iraqi female spy is being grilled by security authorities keen on detecting how the woman fraudulently managed to obtain a Kuwaiti citizenship, and on ferreting out persons, if any, who may have assisted her in the matter.

The woman, who was practising as a lawyer, concealed here true identity and lived in the country as a Kuwaiti under an alias. Reliable sources told a local daily that the woman is suspected of links with Iraqi intelligence.

To start with, the prosecution is probing the name of the father and family recorded in the forged citizenship in a bid to elicit the intention behind the assumption of the name change.

Sleuths handling the case will want to establish whether the name recorded in the Kuwaiti citizenship was imaginary or the actual name of the person who may have helped the woman to obtain the Kuwaiti nationality.

Sources added that the woman owned for a certain period, about 35 private vehicles. Some of them were sold and transferred to Jordan, from where they were taken to Iraq.

Security men dug up at the woman's residence a special notebook containing secret codes and numbers which were ostensibly used to pass on and receive vital information from Kuwait to Iraq and vice versa. The codes were passed on to specialists to figure out information transmitted and received by the woman from her contacts in Baghdad.

The spy, in the meantime, is denying any involvement with the Iraqis and has not surrendered any information on the nature of her clandestine operation.

Detectives are conducting comprehensive investigations with the relatives of the accused to trace her family tree and to find out how she entered and resided in Kuwait.

Kuwait: Iraqi Opposition Leader on POW's, Oil Sales, Baghdad Regime

JN0303204996 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15-16 Feb 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Feb 14 — Kuwaiti prisoners of war, shunted around Iraq, have been translocated in turn from al-Rashid prison to al-Ramadi jail, and from there to Kirkuk, Mosul and finally

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to Abu-Ghurayb jail in west Baghdad, according to a prominent Iraqi opposition leader.

Muhammed Baqir al-Hakim, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, appealed to the United Nations to form a committee to search for the POWs.

He was speaking at a lecture delivered on Tuesday at the 'Umaryah-based Imam 'Ali Bin Abu-Talib Mosque on the theme of "Developments on the Iraqi Issue and the Role of the Iraqi People towards the Toppling of the Iraqi regime and the Building of Iraq's Future."

The speaker affirmed that Saddam's ousting could be achieved by internal forces, implying a lack of foreign power involvement, quite simply because those powers were keen on their interests that could be realised only as long as Saddam remained at the helm of affairs.

He said he knew of a deal concluded between Iraq and Russia in which Baghdad would sell Moscow oil for the sum of US$12 billion.

The contract, he further elucidated, provided for the sale to Moscow of each barrel of oil for eight dollars. Because of this, "some foreign powers were striving to have UN sanctions lifted."

Admitting that it was impossible to deal with the current Iraqi regime, he said its ousting could only be realised through a popular uprising.

Iraq's people were under siege, he said, with their own rulers perpetrating bloody atrocities and terrorism against their subjects. But the regime was increasingly bedevilled by various economic, political, security and corruptive disorders said Hakim, who pointed out that the defection of General Husayn Kamil, Iraq's former chairman of the Military industrialisation Authority — who also is Saddam's son-in-law — has severely weakened the regime.

As for the UN Resolution 986, previously rejected by the Iraqi strongman, allowing Baghdad to sell oil for funds to purchase foodstuff and medicines, Hakim said that it signified that the regime was actually looking eagerly for funds to rebuild its military machine, and not for meeting the Iraqi populace's urgent requirements of food and medicines.

The renowned opposition leader, speaking to a crowd of Kuwaiti citizens at the al-Dinwanyah hosted by MP 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Samad, revealed that the Iraqi Army had undergone some "major changes."

Sizing up Iraq's internal situation, Hakim asserted that the present regime is tottering on the brink of collapse. Reiterating on Iraq's disintegrating economic situation and pathetic internal structure, al-Hakim said other indications of an imminent collapse of the Baghdad regime was the change in Jordan's stand, Jordan being Iraq's past ally.

"By recently holding false elections and pretending of having of a multi-party system, the Iraqi regime is attempting to avoid its collapse," he continued.

He stressed that Islamic movements are becoming victorious despite being under the pressure of the Iraqi regime which has been pushing the country in the darkest ages of history by destroying the Islamic identity.

Hakim indicated that the Iraqi regime is putting on a false pretense of military superiority and mistakenly is under the notion that its army is the second strongest in the world. However the people of Iraq are vigilant and adopting stronger Islamic views and culture, more than any time in the past.

He also recalled that the people of Iraq had been treated unjustly by the international community throughout the 1980s during Iraq's war with Iran. He indicated that the Islamic opposition had provided the United Nations with pictures on the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Hakim said that the Islamic revolution had established a center for human rights in mid 1980s in order to demand the halt of abuses and violations against the people of Iraq.

Qatar

Qatar: Member of Ruling Family Found Dead in Cairo

NC0303195296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—The Qasr al-Nil prosecutor's office in Cairo is currently investigating the death yesterday of Shaykh Khalid Bin-Jasim Bin-Faysal Al Thani, a member of the ruling family in Qatar, who was in Cairo on a tourist trip. The body of Shaykh Khalid, who carries a diplomatic passport, was found in his room in a luxury hotel in Cairo. The police found two syringes next to the body. The syringes are being examined by the criminal laboratory. Several marks caused by the syringes were discovered on his right arm and the upper part of his left leg.

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Qatar: Ethiopian Government Denunciation of 'Plot' Reported

JN0303192596 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ethiopia denounced the mean, abortive plot intended to destabilize the State of Qatar. The Ethiopian Government emphasized that it stands by the State of Qatar and its amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and condemns all acts intended to undermine the stability and security of the State of Qatar and its people.

Through its Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum, Ethiopian voiced its relief at the failure of the plot against the State of Qatar. The minister said that Ethiopia wishes the Qatari people further stability and progress under the wise leadership of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian foreign minister praised the strong relations that bind the two friendly countries, pointing out that the upcoming phase will witness further progress in the various aspects of bilateral relations.

The minister said that within this context, Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi Meles will shortly pay a visit to Qatar, adding that there will be [words indistinct] by the two states.

Qatar: State Renews Support for Peace, Condemns Terrorism

JN0103204496 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has reiterated the State of Qatar's support for the Middle East peace process. This stand stems from the importance of the fact that this region's people should enjoy parallel security and stability to reinforce a comprehensive and just peace, based on the UN resolutions.

The responsible source renewed Qatar's rejection of any negative acts and measures that would instigate hostility between the concerned parties, undermine the Middle East peace process, and expose innocent people to danger. The source reiterated the State of Qatar's denunciation of terrorism in all its forms regardless of its source.

Qatar: Paper Published Amir's 'Statements,' Not Interview

MM0403125396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting Took Place... Interview Denied"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — An authoritative source in Doha has denied that Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani gave an interview to AL-HAYAH.

AL-HAYAH did not publish an interview with the amir of Qatar. It published an article or report on the situation in Qatar and the sabotage attempt against the Qatari Government.

The report contained some of the statements that colleague Sulayman Nimr heard from the amir of Qatar, who received AL-HAYAH's correspondent in his residence twice within a month. The colleague pointed out that his interview with the amir of Qatar was not for publication and that what AL-HAYAH published was some of the statements made by the amir to prove that the situation in Qatar was stable.

Yemen

Yemen: 'Arab Says 'All Necessary Means' To Be Used if Hanish Talks Fail

LD0103211996 Riyadh SPA in English 1947 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, March 1, SPA — Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab said if the political efforts failed to settle the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute over the Yemeni island of Hanish, then Yemen would resort to all necessary means for the restoration of its sovereignty on the island.

In a statement to radio of London, 'Arab said Yemen is keen on the settlement of the dispute through peaceful means.

Yemen: Official Criticizes Eritrea's Stand on Dispute

JN0303210296 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Feb 96 pp 1, 33

[Report by Jihad-al-Din 'Ali in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman stressed his concern that an armed dispute between Yemen and Eritrea may erupt if France announces that its mediation effort to solve the dispute has failed. In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD's correspondent in Sanaa, he said that Yemen

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has told the whole international community about Eritrea's aggression and its refusal to respond to mediation efforts, including France's concept, which was accepted by Yemen but ignored by Eritrea. In addition, he said, Eritrea is aggravating the situation, but Yemen undoubtedly has many ways to restore its right.

Asked if the recent Eritrean escalation means that the French mediation is no longer valid, the Yemeni official said: We cannot say the French mediation has failed. The French have played a good role so far. They worked out an arbitration mechanism and presented a concept, which was accepted by Yemen as reasonable, but is still being ignored by Eritrea. He added: Therefore, it is premature to say the French mediation has failed. The next three days may explain many aspects of the situation. Eritrea's position and goals will be exposed. If Eritrea does not respond to the French proposal, France will announce the failure of its mediation, and it will become necessary to put an end to Eritrea's tough position toward a peaceful resolution.

The Yemeni deputy foreign minister voiced his astonishment at Eritrea's recent intransigence and its media and political escalation. He added: This new position indicates that Eritrea is unwilling to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, but we cannot say it is unwilling to find such a solution and end its aggression against the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al-Kabir. Eritrea, he said, is unaware of the dangers of its intransigence, which will lead to tension and will harm the most important sea route, as well as international shipping. This, he added, will certainly not serve Eritrea or security, stability, and peace in the region and will not allow Eritrea to appear committed to the requirements of its membership of the United Nations, which stresses the need to solve border disputes through peaceful dialogue.

Asked whether the al-Hanish crisis looks like an ambush designed to drag Yemen into an armed conflict that will drain its resources and divert it from domestic progress, the Yemeni official said: Based on these concerns, we are acting responsibly toward what is happening. We are not ruling out the possibility that the whole issue is an ambush designed to drag Yemen into conflicts that do not serve Yemen, Eritrea, or the region as a whole.

He added: However, we would like to say that what Eritrea is doing harms the Eritrean people first. For our part, we will not fall into the ambush that others may want us to fall into. We are taking this matter into consideration, so we are behaving wisely.

On whether this means that Yemen is ready to freeze the crisis in order to prevent a military explosion and engage in development instead, pending a possible peaceful solution to the crisis, the Yemeni deputy foreign minister said his country will not relinquish its national sovereignty or any inch of its territory.

He added: Aggression was carried out against al-Hanish Island. There are many ways to regain this island. Freezing this problem is out of the question, and we will continue our efforts to regain this island. As we are a member of the international community, through the United Nations, and as we abide by the UN Charter and the bases of international law, the international community must also assume its responsibility toward this aggression.

Regarding Ethiopian mediation in the conflict, the Yemeni official said: We are not saying that Ethiopia has stopped its mediation. Ideas have crystallized with the help of Ethiopia and Egypt. The French role was highlighted because it was found that this role can be more effective with the approval of all parties. In other words, the Ethiopian and Egyptian efforts were useful to the French side. In addition, all parties believed that France has presence in the region and understands in this region and that France can play a more effective role in finding a peaceful solution to this problem.

Asked if a summit between Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Isaias Afwerki would settle the issue, the Yemeni deputy foreign minister said that Yemen came under an unexpected aggression from a state that used to be friendly and whose leadership used to have close relations with the Yemeni leadership. Eritrea was not expected to carry out this reckless action, because it was a friendly neighboring state that was supported by Yemen from the very beginning.

He added: Yemen supported the Eritrean revolution for 30 years and stood alongside the Eritrean people under all circumstances. Yemen is still suffering from the repercussions of these positions. It would be difficult to hold a summit between both countries under an aggression of this sort and under the continued Eritrean occupation. Now that all parties have agreed on arbitration, let this process continue. Things will be determined in light of the results.

In view of the information on military preparations by both sides and the fact that a military confrontation will not be ruled out if all mediations fail, the Yemeni deputy foreign minister said: We do not rule out that the Eritreans may take such steps, especially since they are continuing the escalation. At the outset of the conflict, the Eritreans claimed that they have a right to sovereignty over al-Hanish Island. Our delegations were later surprised by the fact that the Eritreans expanded this right and are now claiming the whole archipelago, Zuqar, and other islands.

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He added: This escalation is so obvious that we no longer trust or rely upon what the Eritreans claim. We are not ruling out an attempt to escalate the conflict, harm international navigation, and create a problem in the Red Sea. We are now cautious about their proposals. However, we still believe that the safest way is to help render the French role a success.

Asked about what will happen if these efforts are deadlocked, the Yemeni official said: If that happens, things will be decided at the appropriate time. The French will then be asked to announce that they have failed and to indicate which party was behind the failure. No doubt, there are many ways through which we can regain our right.

Yemen: Eritrean Coverage of Conflict Over Islands
WA0403150096

For reportage of an interview with Eritrean Foreign Minister Petros Solomon on the Hanish Island conflict with Yemen, see the East Africa section of the 4 March Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

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Iraq: Opposition Radio Cited on Forces Build-Up on Kuwait Border

LD0303061996 Tehran IRNA in English 0305 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minou Island (Khuzestan), March 3, IRNA — Military activities are being observed on the the Iraq-Kuwait border, according to an Iraqi opposition radio monitored on this southern Iranian border island.

'Voice of the People of Iraq' announced in the early hours of Sunday that concentration of foreign forces could be observed at the Iraq-Kuwait border.

However, there is no report yet on the size of the foreign forces and any reaction from Baghdad in this regard.

During the two-week Persian Gulf war in January 1991, the American and Iraqi forces fought each other on the Kuwaiti borders.

Iraq: Opposition Sources Cited on U.S. Troops' Northward Movement

LD0303095296 Tehran IRNA in English 0706 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA — Military movements of foreign forces have been observed along the roads on northern and western areas of Kuwait, reported the Iraqi national news agency, affiliated to the Baghdad government opposition, this morning.

The news agency quoting passengers arriving in the United Arab Emirates from Kuwait Sunday morning, added that in the past two days northwards movements of columns of American troops along the Wadi al-Batan road have been observed.

Earlier this morning an Iraqi opposition radio, 'Voice of People of Iraq', reported movement and concentration of units of foreign military forces at the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Independent sources have not yet confirmed the report.

Iraq: Kurdish Radio Reports Iraqi Forces' Attacks

NC0103160096 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Forces of the 'Aflaqite regime resumed their attacks on the liberated areas of Kurdistan. A regime force advanced from its position in Khidr Zinga and took up a position in an area facing the [Shurash] complex in Chamchamal yesterday morning.

Elsewhere, three enemy tanks attacked the villages of (Qushaklu) and Dugird Khan near the city of Irbil and detained nine citizens and seized a car. The Baghdad regime forces bombarded the village of Mirghuzar. The bestial bombardment caused material damage to property.

Iraq: SAIRI's al-Hakim Comments on Husayn Kamil Aftermath

MM0103144396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Mar 96 p 4

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI, by Ghassan al-Tahir in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tahir] After Husayn Kamil's murder, there were reports of clashes within the ruling family, and some circles spoke of fighting between the opposition and the Army. What information do you have about conditions in Baghdad and in Iraq in general?

[Al-Hakim] We expected the assassination of Husayn Kamil and some members of his family to deepen the dispute and the split, as the regime relies on two main pillars: the family and the military establishment. Thus the dispute and its continuation will weaken the regime and bring it into direct confrontation with its pillars. This has started to happen after the murder of Husayn Kamil, his two brothers, and their father, as the disputes have intensified among the sons of the clan and bloody clashes have taken place in Baghdad. The reports we have received confirm that clashes took place near the Republican Palace and in al-'Awjah in the clan's area. The road between Tikrit and Baghdad was cut off for some time. We expect the dispute to deepen, because (President) Saddam Husayn's action (the murder of Husayn Kamil) cannot be justified at all.

[Al-Tahir] Is it true that clashes occurred between opposition elements and regular forces — information that has not been confirmed by independent circles?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi opposition, in particular the Islamic opposition, still believes that the right way to achieve change in Iraq is for the people and the Army to cooperate in an organized action whose first step is taken by the people. We are planning in that direction. In this connection I confirm that military operations have been carried out over recent days, when the mujahidin launched a large-scale attack on two battalions and managed to capture a large number of soldiers and seize a large quantity of arms.

[Al-Tahir] You talk of a plan for cooperation between the opposition and the Army, and at the same time you confirm that opposition elements targeted elements from the Army. Do you not think there is a contradiction?

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[Al-Hakim] No, not at all. We urge the Army and its senior officers to join the people to topple the regime. At the same time we believe that a more effective way to achieve change in Iraq is through popular, field, and jihad action, but the objective is not to clash with the Army. Those captured from the Army in recent battles were released after we had talked to them. We wanted to test the Army's position and reaction in the (southern) region. It was a good test, since the Army elements' reaction was positive and compatible with the mujahidin's position, and they expressed their willingness to cooperate.

[Al-Tahir] Does that mean that you intend to reactivate military action against the regime in Baghdad?

[Al-Hakim] Military action is not one of our aims, nor is the Iraqi Army our target. Because we believe in the need for cooperation between the Army and the Iraqi people. We believe it is necessary to embark on operations that develop into cooperation with Army forces in order to launch a large-scale military action against the regime, especially at this stage, as the regime is very weak at present. It is suffering major domestic problems and isolation among the Army and the people.

[Al-Tahir] Do you have accurate information about how Husayn Kamil and his family were eliminated?

[Al-Hakim] The information we have received confirms that Saddam Husayn ordered their murder, and that his son, 'Udayy, and Saddam's third son-in-law implemented the order through Republican Guard elements.

Saddam tried to give this action a tribal character to spare himself problems after the pardon issued (for Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam) by the so-called Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Party Regional Command.

[Al-Tahir] You say that the Iraqi regime is now very weak. Do you not believe that Husayn Kamil's elimination can be regarded as an indication of the regime's strength internally, rather than the opposite?

[Al-Hakim] We believe that that action is clear evidence of the regime's weakness. Because what would have been in line with the regime's schemes would have been to give Husayn Kamil a chance inside Iraq and to exploit him to incite people against the opposition. The decision to murder him could have been delayed for a month or two until the situation was calm. The rush to murder him in such a manner proves that the regime is going through a real crisis. It thought that delaying the murder would lead to worse complications. Saddam wanted to avoid complications — and that confirms that he is terrified. Because a confident person does not rush the punishment or try to embark on such an action. Husayn Kamil could have been taken to court and then executed.

[Al-Tahir] Husayn Kamil broke away from the regime and defected. The opposition did not embrace him, but, rather, it isolated him. Do you not believe that the opposition is partially responsible for what happened?

[Al-Hakim] I do not think so. Husayn Kamil's defection was not merely a split from the regime. It was coupled with a big ambition, namely for (Saddam's son-in-law) to replace the regime — which the opposition did not accept. Because it is illogical for the opposition to accept someone who is similar to Saddam. It is not a matter of changing names or people, but, rather, conditions and institutions. It was proved, even to those who opened up to Husayn Kamil, that he was no different from Saddam.

[Al-Tahir] But that could dissuade others from defecting?

[Al-Hakim] If others have the same characteristics and want to be the alternative [to the regime], it makes no difference to the opposition whether or not they are dissuaded from defecting. Very few people are similar to Saddam and Husayn Kamil. You could count them on the fingers of one hand. The opposition was faced with another problem, namely that Husayn Kamil introduced himself as a defector and an alternative to Saddam, but had the same characteristics — prompting the opposition not to cooperate with him. Even those who opened up to him were disappointed.

It seems that that caused the man frustration, because his mentality was similar to Saddam's: They are both megalomaniac. When someone like them fails to achieve their aim, they commit suicide. Husayn Kamil committed suicide.

[Al-Tahir] Did you have any contact with him when he was in Jordan?

[Al-Hakim] He tried to contact me but I did not give him a chance after having ascertained the facts I mentioned earlier. I believe that there was a plan drawn up by some international circles to distract the opposition and exaggerate certain matters, and that prompted me not to take part in such plans and methods.

[Al-Tahir] Is there any intention of holding a conference of the Iraqi opposition factions in Damascus?

[Al-Hakim] So far we have not been informed officially that such a conference is going to be held. However, I have heard about the idea from some circles. But I do not believe that there is a clear decision or move in that direction.

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[Al-Tahir] And what will your position be if your are informed officially?

[Al-Hakim] It depends on the nature of the conference and its aims and working method. We will express our opinion when we have knowledge of all aspects.

[Al-Tahir] Conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan have, relatively speaking, calmed down. But a full reconciliation between the two main parties in the region (the two parties led by Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani) has not been achieved yet. How do you view conditions there?

[Al-Hakim] There are real problems in that region resulting from conditions there. The first problem is that the region's political identity has not been defined clearly. The second is the lack of financial resources for government organs and their services. The third problem is the fact that some international forces prevent Kurdish forces from carrying out effective action against the Iraqi regime — which causes those forces to get busy with other minor issues, hence generating friction. At any rate, we have always made and will continue to make efforts to reconcile the various or warring factions in Kurdistan.

Iraq: Opposition Figure Views Continuing Killings

NC0203204296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former director of Iraqi military intelligence and leader of the Iraqi National Movement, by Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Hasan] Former CIA analyst (Kenneth Katerman), who monitors developments in the Persian Gulf for the U.S. Congressional Research Service, has said that it seems physical liquidations among the al-Majid clan members, to which Husayn Kamil belongs, are continuing. Do you have any information on this issue?

[Al-Samarra'i] I believe that physical liquidations did occur. But, as I noted before, this is a small clan. The al-Majid clan belongs to the second father, that is, Saddam Husayn's grandfather. This clan is small and numbers in the dozens. However, they have other extensions in terms of allegiance and kinship in the Armed Forces, the security agencies, and the special guard. According to the information we have received, there have been dismissals, transfers, arrest campaigns, and liquidations. This is only natural according to Saddam's way of thinking. When such events occur, he resorts to such measures. Anyway, other incidents that are not of great importance will occur in Iraq.

[Hasan] Will these arrests, transfers, and liquidations affect the position and situation of the Iraqi Government in Baghdad?

[Al-Samarra'i] I agree with you on this question. Saddam's way of ruling relies on his relatives. The directors of the security agencies and intelligence service and the commanders of the special guards and special security are relatives or cousins of Saddam. All of them have now begun to rebel against him. In fact, only Saddam's two sons now support him. This situation will radically affect Saddam's security and philosophy of ruling because many of Saddam's guards are relatives of Husayn Kamil and others. Consequently, confidence will continue to erode steadily and in time, everything, God willing, will come to an end.

[Hasan] You must have heard that King Husayn repeated his previous statement after the murder of Husayn Kamil. In his statements, King Husayn said that he will do all he can to change the situation in Iraq. Being one of the Iraqi opposition parties, how do you view King Husayn's assurances?

[Al-Samarra'i] We only have one enemy—Saddam. We welcome everyone who helps us to topple Saddam and confront this oppression. We in the Iraqi opposition have a clear view of how things will end. What counts is that we consider any Arab country moving from Saddam's side to the opposition and declaring unequivocally that it stands against Saddam as a step forward. I personally and we as a national Iraqi movement, consider this development an progressive and useful one that will motivate other countries to take a firm stand against Saddam.

[Hasan] But certain observers believe that King Husayn's moves are coordinated with the United States and the Zionist entity and the Zionist plan for Iraq. What do you have to say?

[Al-Samarra'i] There has been much talk on this issue. However, what counts for us now is that we have one enemy— Saddam. There is absolutely nothing worse than Saddam. In the past four decades, Zionism was unable to harm the Arab and Islamic nation, but Iraq as Saddam has done this. In our view, the worst thing is Saddam. This position, however, does not mean that we approve of other unacceptable matters such as Zionist plans or cooperation with Israel under these circumstances and at this stage. These are not tangible things for us. What is tangible is that Saddam forced out millions of Iraqis and destroyed Iraq's resources. We accept any hand that is stretched out to help us provided that this hand is stretched in honesty, integrity, and in line with ethical goals.

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Iraq: UN's Butrus-Ghali Said Working for Successful Talks

JN0103203596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 1 Mar (INA)—In his capacity as head of the Sanctions Committee, German Ambassador Tonowaytil [name as transliterated] has said that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali is making great efforts to render successful the talks with Iraq, and that he hopes he will succeed in this task.

In statements to reporters at noon today, Friday, the German ambassador added that the UN General Secretariat will submit to the Sanctions Committee a draft paper on the measures the committee is required to adopt in order to implement the agreement. In this context, he said that he expects to receive the draft paper when the current talks with Iraq are concluded.

He added that the General Secretariat wants to achieve success in the talks with Iraq before the draft paper on these measures is sent to the Sanctions Committee. He also said that he expects the new round of talks between the General Secretariat and Iraq to be shorter than the first round which lasted two weeks in February.

He said that holding talks or negotiations in the way they were held between the General Secretariat and Iraq is natural and that it requires that the delegation concerned should return home in order to review what took place and then hold a new round. This completely applies to the current talks between the United Nations and Iraq, he added.

The new round of Iraq-UN dialogue will be held on 11 March. The Iraqi delegation will be led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and comprise representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Industry, and Health, and the Central Bank of Iraq. The UN delegation will be led by Hans Corell, legal adviser to the UN secretary general.

Iraq: Ekeus on 'Very Important' Iraqi Statements

MM0403130796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 96 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN special commission for the elimination of prohibited Iraqi weapons, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, executive head of the special commission for the elimination of prohibited Iraqi weapons, has revealed that he has received "new statements" from the Iraqi Government which he described as "very important," relating to "chemical and bacteriological weapons, the production capacity for these weapons and missiles, and covering not only what has happened so far but also their elimination." In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Ekeus said that his next report, expected in the middle of April, will include "a very important clarification of the shipments of missile components intercepted by the Jordanian authorities and those found in the Tigris River."

He stressed that investigation of these shipments resulted in an "initial report which we are using, along with other governments," to obtain information. He added: "We are still investigating" inside and outside Iraq. He said that "it is difficult to understand why Iraq would want such components." He also said that the significance of the discovery of these consignments lies in the fact that "Iraq imported these prohibited materials. As regards the party from whom they were imported and the party capable of financing that — and I am talking about a huge sum of money — we are still investigating that."

He added that this matter is of special importance because "of the availability of resources to purchase the prohibited advanced equipment and bring it to Iraq despite the long period of sanctions."

He said that the discovered shipments were imported in 1995, that is five years after full sanctions were imposed against Iraq. That is why identifying the source of funds is extremely important to the investigation, as is identifying the export source of the banned missile components.

Ekeus added: "It is dangerous to talk about the exporting state, particularly as in such cases there are brokers, financiers, and various markets and ways" of export, but he did not categorically deny that Russia was the exporting state. He said: "The Jordanians say that the components are Russian-made, and that is also our impression."

He was careful not to directly condemn the Iraqi Government over these shipments before the completion of investigations. He said that "the Iraqi side is not obstructing this matter and has in fact handed us the contracts." He added: "That does not mean that they (the Iraqi officials) have given us full information."

He also said: "We know about certain sums" estimated at millions, "but we are still looking for details of how these sums were allocated and for what purposes." He said that the special committee is investigating the circumstances of the import of the prohibited materials and the party responsible. "The fact remains that Iraq imported prohibited materials. Who did the actual importing? Who has the ability to get such massive funds? We are investigating that."

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The Jordanian authorities had announced that they had seized a consignment of missile equipment which could be used to increase the range, and it seems that this equipment was too advanced to be used by Iraq. The Iraqi authorities admitted that another consignment was dumped in the Tigris River, emphasizing that they were not responsible for its import and pointing an accusing finger at a businessman who, they said, acted without their permission.

Ekeus described the two consignments as "large." He said: "It is clear that Iraq purchased two large consignments" of that equipment. Asked why he did not accept Iraq's recent invitation to visit Baghdad, he replied: "My reply to the invitation was not negative but it is a question of timing. We have to wait until we receive answers and new statements on all matters."

He continued: "My hope is to maintain the momentum but I cannot do that without facts." He mentioned "very important new statements handed over in Baghdad, which we expect (in New York) over the weekend. We need to examine them and assess their authenticity and then decide if it would be useful to hold talks with the Iraqi side and, therefore, visit Baghdad."

Ekeus emphasized that the Security Council resolutions requested Iraq to submit "full, clear, and final statements" about its armaments. He added that "if Iraq submits clear and complete statements about the remaining points, that would provide an opportunity for a quick and positive development toward a situation that would make it possible to submit a report to the Security Council stating that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations. Article 22 of Resolution 687 stipulates that the Security Council must be convinced that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations."

He said that "the Iraqis are under an obligation to fully explain everything they obtained, what they destroyed, and what remains."

He did not say to what extent the new Iraqi statements would affect the April report. He said: "My hope is to be able to submit as full a report as possible, and that will depend on the Iraqis and on the new statements. We intend to submit the most complete report possible, and our aim is to identify the remaining problems."

Ekeus emphasized that the special commission knows perfectly well what obligations remain to be honored by Iraq, and "we know what is missing. We know what was imported and what was manufactured but we do not know what was destroyed." He held Iraq responsible for prolonging the process. He said that Iraq "continued to deny the existence" of weapons and armament programs "until last August." Defending the commission, he said: "We do not fabricate things. They conceal information."

What the commission wants to know, he said, is what remaining weapons and programs Iraq has not disclosed. He added: "That secret we do not know, but we know what is missing."

He defended the way the commission operates, based on surprising Iraq with what it knows in order to expose it instead of submitting its information to it and then asking it to expedite the process.

He said: "The most important information we have is the information in the possession of the inspectors, obtained from the intelligence [services] of other states. If we have information, are we to submit it to the other side to confirm or deny?" And he replied: "The Security Council resolutions do not stipulate that the commission should submit information to Iraq. They state that Iraq should submit the information. The Iraqis know perfectly well what they have to do. I feel very disappointed that they have not provided the full picture. We do not have to submit what we have to them." Referring to the way the Iraqis dealt with him in the past, he said that "matters did not proceed well.... They laughed at me...as they did in connection with the secret bacteriological program."

Asked if his experience with the Iraqis has led him to lose confidence in them, he replied: "My professional commitment is that I should keep an open mind and not lose confidence. At the same time we have numerous reasons to verify what is said. We have an open mind but our commitment is to the Security Council and its resolutions. That is why we have to carefully verify all details."

The interview then moved on to the question of the bilateral meeting held between Ekeus and Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq two weeks ago. That meeting was the first of its kind, as far as its announcement and the media coverage given to it were concerned. Ekeus said: "The minister asked for that meeting. It was a legitimate request because he represents a state which is a part of that region. He is a new minister in a state which is very interested in what happens in the region."

Ekeus could not remember if he discussed with the Israeli minister Article 14 of Resolution 687, which considers the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as a step toward ridding the entire region of weapons of mass destruction. He said: "I think we discussed it, but I do not remember." He said that, in his view, that article "should not be a dead article. It is a part of one of the most important resolutions passed by the Security Council and should be honored." He said

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that that article does not "demand" measures but, rather, is "a factual observation." He added: "I have unofficially discussed that article with one particular government." He was referring to Egypt.

Ekeus was reserved in his reply to a question on whether Israel is one of the states supplying the commission with intelligence information on Iraq. The special commission, he said, does not reveal the identity of the states which supply it with intelligence information, with the exception of the United States which "proudly" announced it.

He said that secrecy of the identity of such states is essential to the commission's work. He said: "We protect our information with complete caution and we do not share the information with other governments." He added: "Our policy is based on contacting governments on the basis of secrecy. That is why governments trust us. We protect their companies in order not to appear to want to punish them. We identify the companies and then go to the government concerned for help. If we embarked on a method of condemnation and denunciation, we would be harming ourselves. The sources are very important to us and very sensitive."

On the relationship or link between Resolution 986, which empowers Iraq to sell a limited quantity of oil to meet humanitarian needs, and Article 22 of Resolution 687 which links the question of fully lifting the oil embargo to Iraq's implementation of all requests made by the special commission, Ekeus said: "I do not believe that the one cancels out the other. The link between the two is oil."

Commenting on the talks regarding Resolution 986, he said: "I hope they succeed but there is a political dimension which makes tackling Resolution 986 not so easy. That is why I understand the Iraqi reservations on it."

He added that if Resolution 986 was implemented, that would address the dire need for "ending the suffering" in Iraq "but it would not address the wider problem which the lifting of the oil embargo would."

He said that lifting the oil embargo would "enable Iraq to rebuild its economy." Ekeus considers the effect of Resolution 986 to be "short term as far as tackling the humanitarian aspects" of the problem is concerned "because the causes of the long-term human anxiety will remain."

AL-HAYAH asked if Ekeus could provide some reassurance about the separation of Resolution 986 and Article 22 [of resolution 687] to prevent the resolution becoming a de facto alternative to that article. He replied: "I cannot give assurances, regardless of the implementation of Resolution 986. We are working as fast as possible to clarify the remaining issues in the context of the arms program in order to be able to go to the Security Council as soon as possible."

He emphasized that the commission "has not lost hope" despite the "setbacks which seem to be politically harmful to Iraq." He said that it is important to solve one major problem after another despite the setbacks. He added: "That is why we continue to urge the Iraqis to cooperate so that we can solve all the remaining problems."

Iraq: Interview With Iraqi Nuclear Scientist

96LH0108A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8 Jan 96 pp 22-24

[Interview with Dr. Husayn al-Shahrestani by Ghalib Darwish: "The World of the Iraqi Atom; Saddam Dreamed of Changing the Map of the Middle East Under the Threat of Nuclear Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The World of the Iraqi Atom, Dr. Husayn al-Shahrestani to AL-MAJALLAH

The media has frequently dealt with the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction program ever since the issuance of international resolutions that forced the Iraqi regime to disclose the contents and storage facilities of these weapons. In this interview, Dr. Husayn al-Shahrestani reveals an important aspect of this issue, particularly because he was one of those who established the nucleus of Iraqi atomic energy and refused from the start to participate in Saddam's military program. He was jailed and then fled Iraq. He is now living in Tehran.

[Darwish] Could you please tell us about the Iraqi nuclear program since its inception, especially because you are one of the architects of atomic energy in Iraq?

[Al-Shahrestani] In the early 1970's Iraq developed a nuclear energy program for peaceful purposes. There was a generation of Iraqis who were trained and specialized in this field. When Saddam came to power as President of the Republic in July 1979, he decided to transform the peaceful atomic energy program into a military program. He directed all the scientific energy and the abundant laboratories in Iraq towards creating a nuclear bomb. I refused to participate in this program. I was arrested in December 1979. At that time I was an adviser to the Iraqi Nuclear Commission. I am proud that I did not take part in developing the Iraqi nuclear program for military purposes, knowing that I am one of the architects of Iraqi atomic energy.

Iraq mobilized all of its capabilities to produce an atom bomb, with the extensive cooperation of Western

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companies that actively participated in the Iraqi effort, provided scientific expertise, and cooperated in different fields. As a result of this cooperation and assistance, Iraq was able to build facilities capable of enriching uranium, which is the first stage of creating an atom bomb. Iraq was also able to acquire dozens of centrifuges, which can enrich uranium, and other installations that enrich uranium through electromagnetic separation, in addition to using chemical methods. The Iraqi program came close to being able to produce enriched uranium at a rate of 93% U235, the first substance needed for producing an atom bomb. At the same time, there were large military installations working on detonation and explosive devices, especially those needed for detonating nuclear weapons. There are specific and complicated designs that must take into account the production of an atom bomb and that need a detonation device that would detonate the bomb at the right time and in the right place so that it would not run the risk of any error or defect. With the aid of Western companies, Iraq succeeded in coming close to producing an atom bomb before the invasion of Kuwait.

[Darwish] What has been the fate of the Iraqi atomic scientists?

[Al-Shahrestni] The Iraqi scientists who refused to participate in the nuclear program for military purposes were arrested from the first day. They were arrested and jailed in solitary confinement. As for the others who stayed in Iraq, they cooperated with the regime during the 1980's. After the Kuwait war and the destruction of Iraqi military power, the destruction of what remained of Iraqi equipment, and the seizure of the designs and plans of the Iraqi nuclear program, a number of scientists tried to quit the Iraqi program. Some of them were assassinated, as was the case with one of the Iraqi atomic scientists in Jordan. Some emigrated to the United States. A number of them stopped working in the Iraqi Nuclear Commission and started wo' ng in another field, such as the liberal professions. However, the basic elite that worked in the nuclear program are still there.

[Darwish] The Iraqi atomic installations were subjected to Israeli bombing during the early 1980's. The airplanes of the Western alliance destroyed them in the 1990's. What was the impact of that in both cases on the course of the Iraqi nuclear program?

[Al-Shahrestani] The Iraqi installation that was bombed in 1981 was the Nuclear Research Center. This reactor was not designed for military purposes or to develop nuclear weapons. It was important because of the fuel contained in the reactor, which consisted of enriched uranium at a rate of 93% — the same uranium needed to make a nuclear bomb after being prepared and transformed.

The Israeli bombing destroyed the reactor but left the fuel in Saddam's hands. At that time the fuel was not, of course, sufficient for making one nuclear bomb. Saddam, however, was able to benefit from this fuel in the early 1980's in order later to develop nuclear weapons. This is what happened with the assistance of Western companies, which developed more than fifteen large nuclear installations in Iraq, each of which was larger than the installation that was bombed. Iraq was able to transform these installations into plants for enriching uranium either through centrifusion, electromagnetism, or laser enrichment.

Arab Bomb

[Darwish] Is it possible for the Arab states to manufacture nuclear power equivalent to that in Israel?

[Al-Shahrestani] Based on what I know about nuclear installations in the Arab homeland, I doubt the ability of any Arab country at the present time to embark upon an extensive nuclear program like that which Iraq had during the 1980's.

Even though the Arab homeland has a huge number of experts and technical capabilities that qualify it do to this, we do not see a united political will to embark upon an arms race with Israel. I personally believe that the appropriate time has not yet come for developing capabilities of this type. Taking into consideration the change in the world order and American dominance, it would be wise to direct Arab efforts towards eliminating Israeli weapons from the region instead of thinking about producing nuclear arms.

[Darwish] What about the biological weapons that Iraq produced?

[Al-Shahrestani] The biological and chemical installations do not compare to the nuclear installations that Iraq aspired to develop. However, the idea of chemical and biological weapons tempted Saddam. I remember that when I was in prison they took prisoners so that they could experiment with these weapons on their bodies while they were still alive. We and the world have learned from the reports published by the international commission in charge of supervising the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction that they took possession of thousands of biological and chemical warheads that had the ability to poison the peoples of the Middle East several times over.

I strongly opposed and still oppose the development of any weapon of mass destruction, be it nuclear or biological, just as I call upon the will of the international

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community to stop the production of any weapon of this kind that exposes humanity to mass destruction. Saddam tried his biological weapons on the Iraqi people and did not hesitate to use biological weapons against Iraqi prisoners.

[Dawish] How do you rate the Iranian nuclear program?

[Al-Shahrestani] Based on my observations and visits to several scientific centers and nuclear installations in Iran, I did not, in truth, observe the existence of any effective Iranian nuclear program that was comparable to 10% of the Iraqi program.

My estimation of Iranian nuclear capabilities is that they need double the scientific experience, material, equipment, and nuclear installations that presently exist. At the same time, the nuclear program in Iran needs a huge budget. Saddam spent more than $10 billion on the nuclear program during the 1980's. The Iranian economy will not permit the expenditure of this sum or even a tenth of it at the present time. I also do not believe that Iran is seriously considering developing nuclear weapons in view of the new international circumstances. Even if Iran talked itself into doing that, its human and technical resources, along with the lack of the necessary installations and budget, would not permit this to happen.

The way the Western media has blown the Iranian nuclear program out of proportion results, in my view, from ignorance about Iran's nuclear capabilities.

[Darwish] But Iran concluded an agreement with Russia to build the Bushire nuclear reactor.

[Al-Shahrestani] Yes, but there was a contract with Germany during the time of the Shah to build a nuclear reactor in Bushire that would generate electric power. This reactor generated 80% of its civilian production and 25% of its mechanical production. Work there ceased when Germany refused to continue working on it after the revolution. At the time its costs exceeded $1 billion. (The planned output of the Bushire reactor is 1200 megawatts.) When Iran decided to continue its construction, she sought the aid of Russian scientists. The contract Iran and Russia signed two months ago was for completing this reactor, which will never provide Iran with any military nuclear capabilities because it is designated for the production of electrical power.

[Darwish] What if you were asked to help Arab states establish nuclear installations for peaceful purposes?

[Al-Shahrestani] I would be honored to work in the nuclear field for peaceful purposes in any Arab state, whether it be with Arab universities or with nuclear research centers.

[Darwish] You were close to Saddam Husayn during the period when you worked as an adviser on the Iraqi nuclear commission. How do you analyze his personality?

[Al-Shahrestani] When I was under arrest — and after a difficult period of torture when I was in solitary confinement — Saddam's brother, Barzan al—Tikriti, who was then the Chief of Intelligence, came to me and literally said: "We want you to cooperate with us in the Nuclear Energy Commission. We will release you." This was in the summer of 1980 before the start of the Iraq-Iran war. He presented me with the idea of developing military nuclear arms. He literally said: "We want a strong hand in order to rearrange the map of the Middle East." This was Saddam's idea. Everything that happened after that is proof of this sick man's dream of expansion and hegemony. He committed aggression against Iran and then invaded Kuwait. These acts of aggression are nothing other than part of this strange ambition to build a Saddam empire that harmonizes with his aggressive dreams. I met Saddam more than once before my arrest, when I was an adviser on the Iraqi Atomic Commission. He is a man of average intelligence. He lives the foolishness of an overinflated personality and dreams of imposing his will and control on everything. He will not tolerate any opinion or person who argues with him. He wants to make you understand that he is the supreme leader and that there is no other man after him. This empty arrogance or inflated ego was what drove him to interfere in matters about which he was completely ignorant. When a nuclear matter is discussed, he does not understand the subject. Yet, in most cases, he settles the issue with one stroke of the pen or a ridiculously offhanded decision.

[Darwish] What are the academic problems in our modern world that preoccupy Dr. Al-Shahrestani?

[Al-Shahrestani] Most of my time is consumed by helping the refugees in camps inside Iraqi, especially in the lakes region, as well as following the violations of human rights in Iraq, and sending reports to international organizations. At the same time, I teach graduate students in the nuclear sciences at the University of Tehran.

We met the former Secretary General of the United Nations and talked with him about the deteriorating human rights situation inside Iraq. I am also in constant contact with the United Nations designated Special Reporter for Human Rights [as translated]. We are still supplying him with information about the latest predictions concerning the situation inside Iraq. These reports are usually accepted because they are based on information from inside Iraq. We also have ties to Amnesty Interna-

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tional and numerous other organizations concerned with the defense of human rights in Iraq.

Here I want to point out that the Iraqi people were and still are the largest victims of the policies of Saddam Husayn and his crimes. The Iraqi people paid the price before and after the war. The people are waiting for the help of their Arab brothers to save them from Saddam, who has destroyed an essential part of the Arab homeland and smashed the oldest civilization since the time of Abraham.

[Caption, p. 22] There is no effective Iranian nuclear program! Western companies developed fifteen nuclear installations in Iraq larger than the Tamuz reactor.

[Caption, p. 24] Dr. Al-Shahrestan is lying on the ground because he is suffering from pain that was caused by being tortured in the prisons of Iraq.

[Caption, p. 24] They experimented with Iraqi biological weapons on the bodies of prisoners.

[Caption, p. 24] Identity Card

Dr. Husayn al-Shahrestani — Born 1942 (Karbala) Graduated from Imperial College, London, 1965. Received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's in nuclear engineering from the Canadian University of Toronto in 1967. Received a doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1970. Worked as a scientific researcher for the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission. His studies in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were published in numerous scientific journals and delivered at international conferences. Joined the International Atomic Energy Commission as a result of his numerous scientific studies. Worked as a scientific adviser on the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission. Was arrested in December 1979 and remained under arrest until 1991 when he was able to leave Iraq during the Gulf war.

Iraq: Ministry Supports Cuba's 'Right' To Defend Sovereignty

JN0303174796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA) — Iraq has announced its solidarity with Cuba's just stand, which is based on its full legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and freedom and its people's security. This came in a statement to INA today from a responsible Foreign Ministry source.

In its statement, the source called on the Nonaligned Movement, particularly the movement's chairmanship, to bolster its solidarity with Cuba in order to stop the U.S. provocations and aggressions against it.

Iraq expressed support for Cuba's request for a special UN General Assembly meeting, within its extended session, and for Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez to address the UN General Assembly within the UN convention on international law.

The Foreign Ministry official said: Iraq's representative participated in the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau on 28 February. The bureau was host to the Cuban foreign minister, who briefed the conferees on the details and facts that expose the United States' hostile actions and provocations against Cuba and the Cuban people and the role of U.S. intelligence in supporting acts of sabotage and espionage against Cuba.

During the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau meeting, Iraq expressed its solidarity with the Cuban people and leadership against the U.S. threats and the attempts to use international institutions as a cover for aggression against Cuba and to interfere in its internal affairs. It is not strange for the United States to use the UN Security Council to achieve its tendentious political objectives.

Iraq's representative said: Perhaps this is what prompted the UN member states to seriously search for ways and means to reform the UN Security Council and to set a special mechanism for the council that will guarantee the acquisition of sound and documented information about the issues presented to the council, instead of listening to the viewpoint of only one party, especially if this party is a permanent member of the Security Council.

The responsible Foreign Ministry source added: Iraq has also expressed support for the proposal of the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Colombia, on submitting a request to the UN General Assembly president, in the name of the movement, to support the Cuban foreign minister's request to address the UN General Assembly.

The Foreign Ministry source said: The United States puts states in certain positions and then seeks to embarrass these states by using its influence in the international arena.

The source clarified that this behavior constitutes the essence of the provocative U.S. policy. This conflicts with the bases of the big powers' responsibilities, which should be based on equality and sound rules for dealing with people and states, not on provocation and the use of brute force.

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Iraq: Ramsey Clark Commends Saddam Husayn, People's Resilience

JN0203091296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark described His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as a wise and courageous leader who is working to promote the welfare, prosperity, and progress of his people.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH published here today, he reiterated his rejection of the continuation of the Iraq sanctions. He also stressed the need to work by all means to lift the embargo because it is a heinous crime against humanity and a weapon of mass destruction and collective genocide.

Clark added that his recent visit to Iraq gave him the opportunity to obtain documented information on the blockade and the damage it has caused to the Iraqi people's infrastructure in all areas.

The former U.S. attorney general said that the U.S. Administration is using the Iraq sanctions as a political bargaining chip to pressure and threaten Iraq. He added that this administration views the blockade as an efficient weapon to weaken Iraq and force its conditions on it. It aims to undermine Iraq's national independence, plunder its resources, and weaken its role in the region and the world at large, Clark maintained.

Ramsey Clark said that the U.S. record of handling the embargo is marked by negativity and unscrupulous and unethical conduct. The United States is indifferent to the immense damage it is causing other peoples, Clark noted.

Clark expressed his appreciation and admiration of the Iraqi people, saying that the splendid and long patience of this people, as demonstrated in their handling of the unfair embargo and their incessant efforts to rebuild Iraq and promote its quest for development, prosperity, and greater independence, are a living and positive testimony to the nobility of this people.

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Israel: Protest Lodged After Hamas Attack in Settlement Foiled

TA0203192996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night a large-scale terror attack planned by a seven-member Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad in the Qatif Bloc was foiled. The terrorists chose to attack on Friday night in order to make sure that the residents were at home. The squad practiced for one month and observed the site in order to familiarize itself with the security routine of the area. This was reported by the Gaza Division commander, Brigadier General Yitzhaq Eytan, in a briefing to correspondents at the Erez checkpoint. He said that five squad members managed to infiltrate, but surrendered after a brief hot pursuit quickly initiated by an antiaircraft unit serving in the area. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Brig. Gen. Eytan said two of the squad members escaped back into the Gaza Strip, but on the basis of information provided by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] the two were apprehended.

The Palestinian Police were surprised to learn of the infiltration. Brig. Gen. Eytan emphasized that a protest was lodged with the Palestinian Police and the Palestinian intelligence services in the Gaza Strip — all of which failed to prevent the infiltration of this large squad into Israel. He added that the IDF is on high alert, seeing as we are unable to obtain accurate intelligence information. Eytan said that the antiaircraft unit that foiled the attack acted very well and in a praiseworthy manner.

Israel: Over 10 Killed in Jerusalem Bus Bombing

TA0303051296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A No. 18 bus was blown up again this morning on Yafo Street in downtown Jerusalem near the Generali building, over half an hour again, precisely one week after the earlier terrorist attack. Initial reports refer to over 10 fatalities and many seriously wounded. The explosion occurred at 0625 [0425 GMT] on an ordinary bus on the corner of Yafo and Shlomtzion Hamalka Street.

Israel: Death Toll Rises to 20 in Jerusalem Bus Attack

TA0303055296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0543 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There were 20 fatalities in this morning's terrorist attack on Jerusalem's No. 18 bus on Yafo Street near the Generali building, not nine or 10 as we had reported earlier.

Israel: Weizman Urges Suspension of Peace Process Following Attack

TA0303060996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0545 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman by correspondent Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Golan] Mr. President, what do you have to say to the people?

[Weizman] My remarks to the public are to call for full restraint on this difficult and terrible day. We extend our wishes to all the families and all the casualties following the terrible blows we have sustained these months. We are facing a tough confrontation; we are at war. Therefore, I recommend to my colleagues in the government to halt right now, to suspend, to think, just as I said a year ago, because it cannot go on like that. We cannot accept it.

In addition, I highly recommend that all those involved in the elections put competition aside for the time being, and if possible, gather together to find the best and most experienced minds to search for a solution to the difficult situation in which we find ourselves.

I repeat: Restraint; the peace process will not run away. All those with experience must unite to find a solution. Above all, right now we must suspend things and think.

Israel: Unidentified Caller Says Hamas Responsible for Jerusalem Attack

TA0303061896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Qol Yisra'el in Arabic received a telephone call a short time ago from an unidentified caller announcing that Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm is responsible for the Jerusalem bus attack.

Israel: Minister Sne Urges 'Pinpointed' Action Against Hamas

TA0303070196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Health Minister Efrayim Sne by correspondent Menahem Friedman; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Can you give us details about the casualties in the bus explosion?

[Sne] I do not have additional information beyond what has already been reported. I believe that I will receive more information in the next few minutes.

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[Friedman] Last week, we asked why the closure was lifted, which is no longer relevant. There is a total closure on the territories, with several exceptions, and still there was a terrorist attack in Jerusalem. Does that mean that a closure is not the solution for murderous attacks?

[Sne] That is correct. That is my position, which I voiced many times last week. A closure on its own does not prevent attacks. The real war against terrorism is by pinpointed actions against the foci, the operators, which is much tougher and expensive.

[Friedman] Do I understand correctly that you are talking about an initiated action by the Israeli security forces against terrorist concentrations inside the Palestinian Authority [PA] and in the territories we control?

[Sne] I am referring to a variety of actions, intelligence and other, against the terrorist elements.

[Friedman] I assume that the separation plan that was supposed to have been discussed by the cabinet this morning is the hot issue on the agenda following the attack. To what extent can it help prevent further attacks?

[Sne] I fear that a closure on its own and a technical separation will not totally prevent terrorist attacks, and it is important to say that. What could prevent attacks is actions against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other terrorist organizations, in cooperation with the PA, but without totally depending on it. The main burden continues to fall on our security forces, and they must bolster their efforts as much as possible.

[Friedman] Over the weekend, there were reports about negotiations Israel is conducting with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership, apparently in the diaspora, over halting the attacks in return for a release of Palestinian prisoners. The Prime Minister's Office quickly denied the reports, but might it not be right to negotiate directly with Hamas on a cease-fire?

[Sne] We do not negotiate that way. We negotiated with the PLO at the time, but only when it became clear that they had abandoned terrorism. There is currently an elected Palestinian representation, and we will not bypass it and not relieve it of its responsibility. Those who have been elected and those who are supposed to lead have the responsibility to fight terrorism and to cooperate with us on the matter, and we will not take shortcuts. The problem with Hamas is its political aim, which we cannot accept.

[Friedman] What is its political aim, to get rid of the Peres government?

[Sne] The problem is not getting rid of the Peres government, it is getting rid of the Jewish state. They do not accept our existence as a state; they do not accept the agreements with the PA. They reject the state and the peace, and do it by murdering Israelis.

Israel: Further on Jerusalem Attack; Peres Visits Site, Convenes Cabinet

TA0303064396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jerusalem police spokesman said 20 people have died in this morning's bus attack. Jerusalem hospitals reported eight wounded in the attack. The explosion occurred on a No. 18 bus on the corner of Yafo and Cheshin Streets in downtown Jerusalem at 0625 [0425 GMT]. The Jerusalem police chief said that a very large bomb tore the bus apart. The casualties were evacuated within minutes, and the fatalities are still being taken away.

The Egged bus company spokesman said the bus started its route in the Gonen neighborhood at 0604. Our correspondents say that the site looks very similar to last week's terrible scenes. Body parts were blown over a large area, the bus skeleton is charred, and there are many casualties inside and around the bus. Businesses near the explosion were also damaged, doors were blown out, and windows were smashed. The police have called on the public to stay away from Yafo Street because it is impeding the rescue teams. Yafo Street is closed to traffic. Six casualties are hospitalized at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, there is one casualty at Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital, and one casualty is at Hadassah-Mt. Scopus.

The heads of the security services arrived at the Prime Minister's Office for consultations. The security services canceled all the exceptions to the closure for sick people and VIP's.

The prime minister's antiterror adviser called on soldiers at the pickup points and guards on buses and those using public transportation to be extra cautious in the coming hours since there might be more attacks.

Prime Minister Peres visited the site of the attack accompanied by the heads of the security establishment and a heavy guard. Mr. Peres looked at the destruction, was given updates by the rescue teams, and returned to his office for a cabinet meeting. Some people in the crowd shouted catcalls at Mr. Peres.

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Israel: Deputy Defense Minister on Terror, Suspending Peace Talks

TA0303070696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0615 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or by correspondent Raz Barkay; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] I would like you to comment on President Weizman's remarks calling for an immediate suspension of the talks with the Palestinians. Do you agree with that?

[Or] There are currently no negotiations with the Palestinians. What is he talking about? The talks on the permanent settlement should start only in late May, and until the clauses in the Palestinian Charter calling for Israel's destruction are amended, they will not be resumed. Therefore, there are currently no negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Barkay] What do you have to say about the calls from the public and politicians for an emergency national government?

[Or] I do not know whether an emergency national government is the solution to terrorism, but cooperation among all the parties is needed, and I think that it started last week. I would call for cooperation, restraint, and an exchange of thoughts.

Israel: Police Chief Urges Jerusalem 'Flooded' With Security

TA0303071696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0630 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Interview with Israeli Police Chief Asaf Hefetz by correspondent Arye Gus at the site of the Jerusalem bus attack — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hefetz] Today's bus attack is very similar to last week's attack, perhaps even stronger. We are currently dealing with the repercussions of that terrible attack. I am on my way to the cabinet meeting.

[Gus] What will you say at the cabinet meeting?

[Hefetz] We will have to bolster forces in the town, at least until we know who is sending the suicide bombers into Jerusalem. Until then, Jerusalem has to be flooded with forces in order to provide a feeling of security as well as real security. We currently have no other choice.

[Gus] Exactly a week after the earlier attack, did you anticipate a repetition so quickly?

[Hefetz] Such possibilities exist everywhere, in Jerusalem and in other places, and not only on buses. We must find answers for everything, and to do that in Jerusalem we need additional forces.

[Gus] Can you tell us what security measures you will be taking now. Is there a plan to add guards to the buses?

[Hefetz] The cabinet meeting is starting, and that will be discussed there.

Israel: Ben-Eli'ezer Urges Immediate Separation, Security Plans

TA0303084096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0707 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Interview with Israeli Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by correspondent Shlomo Raz at the Prime Minister's Office prior to the cabinet meeting on 3 March — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ben-Eli'ezer] We must implement immediately the separation plan and make very special arrangements for Jerusalem: to promptly implement the plan to guard buses, whatever the price. There is no question that the suspension of the talks with the Palestinians must head our list of decisionmaking priorities. There is no point in continuing this situation. Lastly, I think that the Palestinians must be given a clear message: If you do not deal with the problem, we will deal with it. No fence, no border will stop us. Nothing will stop us; we will defend our right to live in our country.

[Raz] Would it be correct to redeploy the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the West Bank towns and return to the Gaza Strip?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] God forbid, God forbid. We cannot return to what we evacuated. We do not regret what we have done so far. An element that wants to destroy our continued existence here has surfaced, and we will cut it down. We will concentrate all our forces, and we will succeed. This is a strong country. Up to now, we have remained mum, but this has stopped.

[Raz] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, I already hear calls that in these difficult times we must immediately set up a national unity government. What do you think?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I suggest remaining calm. I do not know what sort of proposal that is. We have a strong government, which has to deal with a tough situation.

[Raz] [passage omitted] I have no doubt that the minister's remark that the political process should be halted will be supported around the cabinet table. There will be ministers who will say that 'Arafat is not providing the goods and that, therefore, the process has to be halted. The focus of the cabinet meeting

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will be the separation plan, which was called the real separation plan in last night's special consultations at the prime minister's residence, to erect a fence — I do not know in what form — to separate Israel and the territories, as well as a wide-ranging plan to defend public transportation. [passage omitted]

Israel: Israeli Arabs Urge 'Arafat To Act Against 'Terrorism'

TA0303092196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0820 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Arabs urge Yasir 'Arafat to adopt an iron-fist policy against terrorism and call on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to cease the terrorist attacks. Arab Democratic Party Knesset Member Talib al-Sani' telephoned me several minutes ago and called the Jerusalem bus attack a despicable terrorist attack in which innocent women and children were murdered, saying that it is aimed at murdering the peace process. He said that those behind the action want to return to the cycle of bloodletting. Husayn Sulayman, spokesman of the Israeli Arab Follow-Up Committee, had harsh things to say to Yasir 'Arafat and Hamas.

[Begin recording] [Sulayman] We are shocked and sharply denounce the despicable act perpetrated by fanatics whose aim is not only to murder innocent civilians, but also to destroy the political process and coexistence between the Arab and Jewish people. We call on Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority [PA], to adopt an iron-fist policy against the perpetrators of these attacks and once and for all, to end the actions of these people. We send condolences to the families of the fatalities, and we wish a speedy recovery to the wounded.

[Ben-Menahem] Does that mean that you support Israel's position that 'Arafat is not doing enough against terrorism?

[Sulayman] I think Mr. 'Arafat must use the toughest measures possible against these people because their only aim is to undermine the PA and the Israeli Government and to destroy the coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you have to say to Hamas, which took responsibility for the attack?

[Sulayman] We call on Hamas leaders to look around at the anger among Arabs in Israel and the territories at their actions. I can only say one thing: I am ashamed of being an Arab today. [end recording]

Israel: Peres on Separation Plan; 'Arafat Outlawing Armed Groups

TA0303093696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Mar 96 pp 1, 23

[Report by Orly Azulay-Katz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Separation is our answer to terror. This is the first time the government has dealt with the separation plan. Also, it is the first time that we have decided on a bus safety plan." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last night to YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Late last night, Peres convened an emergency meeting in his house, in preparation for the cabinet meeting this morning. The meeting was attended by Ministers Ehud Baraq, Yosi Beilin, Yosi Sarid, and Moshe Shahal. The ministers discussed details of the separation plan.

It has been learned that after the 25 February terror attacks, Peres demanded that 'Arafat outlaw all armed organizations, saying: "In a democracy there is room for 10 parties, just a single gun. When there is one party and 10 guns, it is anarchy."

Yesterday, Peres reported with satisfaction that 'Arafat had outlawed all armed organizations, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and ordered that they be disarmed. Peres said he believes 'Arafat has taken the right track, realizing that terror poses a risk to him, too. [passage omitted]

Israel: Cabinet Declares War on Terrorism, Discusses Security Plans

TA0303103096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by Shlomo Raz at the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a recess in the cabinet meeting, which the prime minister is using to meet with the head of the opposition, Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, who arrived at precisely 1058. I have initial details from the cabinet meeting. There is no need to point out that the atmosphere was grave and that the prime minister was tense and nervous. What took place at the meeting? A declaration of war against terrorism was issued. One of the moves I learned about is a plan to block and later to demolish the homes of relatives of suicide attackers. According to opinions received by the government, the suicide attackers hope their families will be rewarded, but the cabinet plans to punish the families.

Jerusalem was the focus of the deliberations. There is a plan to deploy a great deal of soldiers and not only

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police forces in Jerusalem in an effort to deal with this terrible terrorist wave and to return the feeling of security. I believe that the cabinet did not discuss the possibility of a national unity government. The session was entirely devoted to practical moves involved in bolstering security. Behind the scenes, we hear all sorts of contacts and talk that this might be the time to try that proposal.

Another proposal raised at the cabinet was to set up a supreme command to fight terrorism. I know that Minister Mikha Harish suggested appointing Major General Uri Sagi to head the command.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 3 March adds that "President 'Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Peres, and Knesset Members Netanyahu and Ari'el Sharon have spoken on the telephone, probably on national cooperation. Netanyahu was asked whether they discussed a national unity government, but said he would react only after hearing from Peres. Netanyahu's meeting with Peres ended a few minutes ago, and the Likud leader left without saying anything. Other opposition leaders are also due to meet with the prime minister. Netanyahu promised the government backing for the war against terrorism, and they discussed ways of doing it. It is reasonable to assume that Peres informed Netanyahu of the cabinet's decisions."]

Israel: Anonymous Caller Names Jerusalem Suicide Bomber

JN0303100896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An anonymous caller contacted the newsroom of the Voice of Israel in Arabic about half an hour ago. He said that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, which belong to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, announce that they are responsible for the sabotage attack in Jerusalem.

The caller said that the name of the saboteur who carried out this suicide operation is Islam Muhammad 'Abduh, a 24-year old Hebron resident and engineering student at Bi'r Zayt University.

Israel: Death Toll in Jerusalem Bus Attack Reaches 19

TA0303103396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The death toll from the bus attack in downtown Jerusalem is 19. The suicide attacker was apparently among the fatalities. The bodies were transferred to the Abu-Kabir Forensic Medicine Institute for identification. Seven casualties are currently hospitalized in Jerusalem. Hadassah-'En Kerem has six casualties, all in serious conditions, including two in very serious condition. A casualty at Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital is also in serious condition.

Israel: Cabinet Adopts Separation Plan, Other Security Measures

TA0303110296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1015 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by political correspondent Nisim Mish'al at the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of forming a national unity government did not come up in Prime Minister Peres' meeting with Binyamin Netanyahu. We know that the chief of staff and the Shin Bet head participated in the cabinet meeting. They discussed the identity of the suicide bomber and a series of measures to be adopted. The cabinet meeting is continuing, but the prime minister takes breaks to meet with opposition leaders.

We more or less know the details of the cabinet decisions Shim'on Peres will announce about 1400: a comprehensive war against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other terrorist organizations; a demand that all Arab states use all measures possible against terrorism; the immediate bolstering of army and police forces in Jerusalem and along the dividing line; measures against families of suicide bombers, punitive measures against the homes from which the attackers depart — the intention apparently being to seal and demolish their homes; and the establishment of a unit to safeguard buses. An extensive debate was held on a separation policy, and it was decided to separate the Israeli and Palestinian publics. The crossings will be instituted along the dividing line. The separation plan will cost 257 million shekels, which was approved by the cabinet. In other words, the cabinet approved a series of measures, which will be announced after the cabinet meeting.

The prime minister will announce other measures, the first being the suspension of the talks. There is very heavy ministerial pressure to announce unequivocally the suspension of the talks. That issue was raised last week, and the prime minister did not want to create a link between the war against terrorism and progress in the political negotiations, but this time he will apparently be under heavy pressure.

On the evacuation of Hebron at the end of the month, the prime minister will have to say whether he supports postponing it.

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Israel: Labor Sources — Peres Opposed to National Unity Government

TA0303121796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1110 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by Yaron Deqel in Tel Aviv]

[FBIS Translated Text] A national unity government is not being considered by the prime minister, close Peres aides and Labor sources say. Peres met this morning with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and he has meetings planned with Ari'el Sharon, Refa'el Eytan, Zvulun Hammer, and the leaders of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and United Torah Jewry, but the prime minister's bureau has made it clear these meetings are meant to update the parties on what measures the cabinet plans to take and are definitely not political meetings.

The background to this possibility of setting up a national unity government is President 'Ezer Weizman's call this morning to unite all the forces in the war against terrorism. The president's office stressed that Weizman did not call for a unity government and is not working for its establishment. We know that some of today's meetings by Peres with opposition leaders are a result of telephone conversations the president held with the prime minister and with Netanyahu and Sharon about the possibility raised by National Religious Party leader Zvulun Hammer to postpone the Knesset elections if the implementation of the Oslo Accords are suspended, but that possibility was not considered by the prime minister. Opposition has already been voiced to Hammer's proposal among opposition leaders, for example Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo a short time ago called on the prime minister and the opposition to set up a national unity government immediately and to expand the defense cabinet to include opposition representatives. Milo said that the public wants wall-to-wall cooperation against the murderous terrorism, but despite the calls Peres' aides made it clear that he does not plan to set up a unity government.

In the meeting with Netanyahu, the two dealt with the burning issue of terrorism. The heads of the defense establishment participated in the meeting. Netanyahu presented his own proposals for fighting terrorism: Halting all the political discussions with the Palestinians until the terrorist infrastructures are destroyed and sharp actions is taken against instigators and attackers, including deportations.

Defense is the focus of the Peres' discussions. Labor says the government must adopt a tough stand against terrorism and must not make do with only declarations, as it did following last week's bus attacks. The Likud's political forum will convene in the Knesset soon. We reiterate the Likud leader's call for restraint from the public and from Likud supporters to avoid demonstrations against the government. The bottom line is: A national unity government is not on the prime minister's agenda, and unless Peres initiates such a government, it will not come about.

Israel: Netanyahu Proposes Antiterror Plan; Parties React

TA0303115496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1115 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu about one hour ago. Netanyahu expressed his full support for the relentless war declared by the government on terrorism and proposed to Peres a series of security measures that he believes are necessary in the wake of today's attack. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin Vismonsky recording] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu today proposed to the prime minister five steps that he believes are necessary in the wake of today's grave attack: a halt to any political negotiations until the Palestinians eradicate the terrorism infrastructure; the imposition of a complete closure; full freedom of action for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] everywhere; severe punishment for those who send the terrorists; and a termination of Palestinian activity in East Jerusalem.

The prime minister, the chief of staff, the police commissioner, and the Shin Bet chief updated the opposition leader on the security measures adopted. Later today, Peres will meet Ari'el Sharon, Ehud Olmert, and the representatives of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], United Torah Jewry, the National Religious Party [NRP], and Tzomet. From what is known so far, the domestic political issue — namely, a national unity government and delaying the elections — was not raised in the meeting, which focused solely on the security and political issues.

The reactions to the attack in the political arena were relatively mild. Tzomet called on the public to maintain calm and unity; the NRP called for fasting and praying on Ta'anit Esther [day marking the Jews' struggle against the Persians as related in the Book of Esther] tomorrow; HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] denounced the attack and called for a political separation between the two people. Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi offers his experience in helping the government fight terrorism. He opposes, however, a national unity government or delaying the elections. [end recording]

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Israel: Peres News Conference on Jerusalem Bus Blast

TA0303132996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1247 GMT 3 Mar 96

[News conference by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon. We woke up this morning to face a very hard blow to all of us without exception, everywhere in Israel, to the entire nation. I do not mean to belittle the magnitude of the blow or the pain it caused in any way, but the solution does not lie in weeping or in demonstrations. The solution lies in correctly analyzing what things can and should be done without hesitation. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has decided to harm Israelis and to destroy the peace. In my opinion, it is resolved to lead the Palestinians into a world of despair, hatred, and hostility. Of course, when such an event takes place — I visited the scene of the bus bombing this morning — the initial reaction upon seeing the fatalities is naturally human: to share the families' grief, and to pray for the recovery of the wounded women, men, young people, and old people. I am sorry that grief should be the uniting factor.

The difficult and cruel problem is that Hamas has decided to turn people into bombs without discrimination, anywhere possible, while at the same time radical clerics and leaders are resorting to dreadful deceit by getting hold of young, mindless people, and telling them that they will go straight to heaven. They send these people to kill and be killed, while they remain on firm ground. They neither commit suicide nor are they killed; they tempt others. As far as I know, every religion condemns suicide. We expect every believing and civilized person to be able to discriminate between this dreadful attempt to plant insane ideas in the hearts of people, some of whom may be innocent. [sentence as heard]

That was a description of the situation. The operational conclusion for us is this: We view these events as a war in every sense of the word. Painful as it may be, we will fight. This is a war that requires unequivocal means, including emergency measures, measures that cannot be postponed, measures that must be implemented at once.

I am determined, as are my colleagues in the cabinet and, I think, the entire nation whatever their partisan affiliation, to grind this organization into the ground. Any appropriate idea that is conceived and can be implemented will be implemented. We will not be deterred from implementing any measure. We will spare no effort. We have decided to give this war the highest and most unequivocal priority.

Everything we have in terms of manpower, ideas, and means will be mustered, first and foremost, for the purpose of conducting this war firmly and immediately.

This morning the cabinet convened and made several decisions on principles, decisions on action, and decisions pertaining to other bodies.

The first decision in principle was that Israel is to be viewed as waging a comprehensive war against Hamas and other terror organizations. We decided to immediately reinforce the security forces in Jerusalem both with the Israel Police and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. The reinforcement has already started. We will fill this city with security personnel in order to give this city the security it needs.

We have decided to deploy soldiers and policemen at bus depots and hitchhiking stations. They will inspect every person boarding busses, including soldiers, because some of the suicide terrorists were apparently disguised as soldiers.

We have decided to reinforce the intelligence system in the city of Jerusalem and elsewhere. The first and most important arm in this field is undoubtedly intelligence.

We have decided to take legal measures against the families of suicide attackers. Their houses will be sealed and, if necessary, demolished within the parameters of the law. We have decided not to permit any more celebrations commemorating suicide attackers. A closure is about to be imposed on the village of al-Fawwar, from which the two terrorists came. Their houses will be sealed, and we will take steps to demolish them.

We have decided to set up a special bus security unit. It will employ about 800 experienced, excellent men with combat experience, who will escort the buses. Bus security will have a key place in our new course of action.

We have decided to separate the Israeli population from the population of the territories. As of now, passage from side to side will be controlled. We have decided to set up controlled transit points between these two locations.

We have decided to prevent the illegal entry of vehicles and people from and into the territories. Anyone violating this law — whether Israeli or resident of the territories — will be penalized to the full extent of the law.

We have decided to allot nearly 300 million shekels for the immediate execution of these objectives. The amount includes some 247 million for separation and 40 million for the establishment of the bus security unit.

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We have decided to demand three clear things from the Palestinian Authority [PA]. One: They must outlaw the terrorist organizations, including the military arms of Hamas and Islamic Jihad; 'Arafat informed me this morning that he has received this demand, and that they have accepted it. We demanded that terrorists be disarmed. We demanded the arrest of people whom we believe to be the leaders of these organizations. These are three demands on which no compromise is possible. We do not want 'Arafat to defend us, and neither do we want 'Arafat to serve us. We want 'Arafat to do what any responsible man does in his country: To ban the two armed groups, each with its own modus operandi. Either they are curbed, or we will have to draw the appropriate conclusions.

We have decided to act against the Hamas infrastructure wherever possible and with every method at our disposal.

We have decided to appeal to Arab countries and to other members of the international community to condemn this murderous method and to appeal to religious clerics and ask them whether they excommunicate people or encourage this grave phenomenon.

I am not saying it is simple, but under such circumstances, a nation should unite, grieve quietly, and act with determination. I cannot guarantee that we will not experience any more pain, but I can guarantee that no pain or blow will put any doubt in our hearts as to our ability to overcome them, and we will overcome. When state security is at stake, national and personal security will be the supreme consideration on which no compromise is possible. We viewed it that way in past wars and terror situations, and that is how we view it today.

[IDF Radio's Udi Segal] President 'Ezer Weizman has called for the establishment of a national unity government. He also called for an immediate halt to the negotiations with the Palestinians. Are you responding to these calls by the president?

[Peres] There are no negotiations with the Palestinians. Instead, we posed demands to the Palestinians. There are no negotiations at the moment.

[Segal] What about a national unity government?

[Peres] If there is a proposal, it will be checked out. At the moment, the first need is to adopt operational measures.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shlomo Raz] I am still trying to understand whether the political process with the PLO, the Palestinians, is continuing, has been suspended for a certain time, or has been immediately stopped and will not continue?

[Peres] I do not know what a political process means. There is an agreement. We honored and will honor the agreement, on condition that the Palestinians honor it too.

[Raz] This is an unequivocal condition, isn't it?

[Peres] It is.

[Television 2's 'Imanu'el Rosen] Mr. Prime Minister, the IDF is slated to evacuate the town of Hebron in about three weeks. If the situation does not improve by then, will you suspend Hebron's evacuation by the IDF?

[Peres] Everything will be examined in light of the Palestinians' fulfillment of their commitments. There will be no unilateral implementation of anything. Everyone should act as appropriate, as has been undertaken. What we are demanding is that the Palestinians do as they undertook to do in the agreement; we are not asking for any favors or anything new. Under the agreement, they should dismantle and disarm terrorist organizations; they should jail and hold in prison all those guilty of terrorist acts, and we expect them to abide by the agreement fully and without hesitation.

[Television 1's Shlomi Eldar] Mr. Prime Minister, you are in fact saying that the government has decided on an anti-Hamas war. Still, there are considerable areas under the control of Yasir 'Arafat and the PA. How would you, for instance, instruct the IDF to act against terrorists residing in areas under the PA's control? Could you tell 'Arafat to demolish houses, for instance?

[Peres] First, in these cases, all houses are in IDF-controlled areas, but 'Arafat should act according to the agreement. If he does not abide by the agreement we will have to draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, is it correct to assume that any terrorist who blows himself and a bus up needs the help of collaborators who live in Jerusalem proper? The question is what Israel is supposed to do in Jerusalem which is a sovereign Israeli territory.

[Peres] Those who aid terrorists are considered terrorists by us. There is no difference. The only difference is that collaborators are sending others to kill and be killed. There is no difference whatsoever. We will fight the infrastructure with the same kind of determination that we are using to fight suicide bombers.

[Television 1's Nisim Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, you spoke of a comprehensive war. You said, a la guerre comme a la guerre. Have you also considered a postponement of the elections in the wake of the situation?

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[Peres] Look, all day today has not been devoted to the political side. I know that there are political, governmental, and parliamentary aspects to the situation. Today, together with my colleagues in the cabinet, the General Staff, the police, and the Shin Bet, I preferred to focus on just the measures themselves. I am not hiding the need for second thoughts. Still, since this morning, when I heard this terrible news at about 0640, my thoughts have focused primarily on the necessary operational measures and the decisions we should make. We will analyze the political aspect at a later time.

[Mish'al] Still, you do not exclude this possibility in light of the situation?

[Peres] In general, I do not exclude any means which bolster the war against Hamas.

[Mish'al] Including a postponement of the elections? [No Peres' answer]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, it was an unusual move on your part to summon the opposition leaders, including Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon, for talks today. What happened today that you decided to make this move? Does it point to an intention on your part to have some kind of cooperation with the opposition in the future?

[Peres] Let me remind you that I did so last time too. This is a national emergency situation. In such a situation I do not distinguish among parties or different views since I am convinced that the entire nation, left and right, the elderly and the young, are convinced that the war should be fought as necessary. I believe that this is the first and overwhelming desire of all the parties.

[Unidentified correspondent] Usamah al-Baz is currently in Gaza after visiting Jerusalem yesterday and holding a meeting with you. Was Egypt entrusted with the task of convincing the PA to comply with the Israeli requests?

[Peres] I read in the press that he came to ask that we be moderate and considerate, but this was not the case. He wanted to know the situation and I clarified to him, in no uncertain terms, what the PA has to do by law, what our complaints about the PA are, along with our appreciation for the incidents which they foiled. Nevertheless, they must stop the responsible elements. It is inconceivable that celebrations will take place in Gaza or in Qalqilyah in honor of suicide bombers. This is unheard of. I spoke with him very strongly, perhaps no less clearly than the way I am speaking with you right now.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, will you appeal to King Husayn to evacuate the Hamas commands from Amman? Will you also ask the Israeli delegation to the Wye Plantation talks to demand that Syria also evacuate the commands of the rejectionist organizations in Damascus?

[Peres] This morning I got a call from the Jordanian prime minister. He told me that they would take very firm action against anybody who aids Hamas. He told me that they would honor any request we might have. Instructions have been given to our delegation in the United States to demand the same of the Syrians.

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, the incident last week followed six months of calm as far as bus explosions and suicide bomber actions inside Israel are concerned. It seems that the killing or liquidation of Yahya 'Ayyash triggered the issue of revenge and suicide attacks anew. Was 'Ayyash's liquidation not a double-edged sword in this case?

[Peres] In my opinion, to the best of my knowledge, Yahya 'Ayyash never ceased planning attacks against Israel and did hurt Israel quite a bit. Why did he do so? Was it because he had been killed earlier? He killed also before he was killed. In addition, we appealed to 'Arafat and told him that in our opinion 'Ayyash was in Gaza. 'Arafat responded that 'Ayyash was in Sudan. I am wondering indeed how the killers knew where he was while the PA did not.

[Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, there were two very grave incidents and there is a very bitter atmosphere in the country. The quetion is whether or not the government has lost control of the situation.

[Peres] Did the government invite these incidents? What sort of a question is this?

[Mish'al] Maybe the government does not have an answer to these incidents.

[Peres] Excuse me, does anybody have an answer? Were there no terrorist attacks before, over all those years?

[Mish'al] You are the prime minister, sir!

[Peres] I am the prime minister indeed. I shoulder the responsibility and in these hard moments the responsibility is 10 times as difficult. This habit, in every grave incident, of pointing an accusing finger at ourselves does not seem right to me.

[Mish'al] Who should we point the finger at then?

[Peres] At those who are guilty, those who should be caught and punished.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, a question about the separation. Is this a knee-jerk for the short term, or is it a long-term policy? A year ago Minister

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Shahal headed a committee that dealt with the separation issue, and all his recommendations were, in my opinion, shelved. There was also talk of Palestinian employment in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; there was talk for three years about industrial parks, and we see nothing of the kind! This kind of incident repeats itself, and the question is whether this is just another round and the matter will be forgotten in a matter of two months or so, or whether this is indeed a new policy?

[Peres] This is a policy that has been carefully examined over the last few weeks. We tasked the deputy chief of staff to sit with all the elements necessary to work out a suitable policy that also matches the professional advice by the IDF, the police, and the Shin Bet. We reached a common plan that stipulates that the separation will be implemented in zones that will be defended as necessary. This is a well considered and consolidated plan. The time to implement this plan has come, and we also decided to allocate the necessary funds for its implementation.

As for the industrial parks, there were numerous administrative difficulties, not on our part necessarily, but it has now been finally decided to set up three industrial parks, the construction of which will begin in the coming days.

[Correspondent] Mr. Peres, the negotiations on the permanent arrangement are slated to begin in mid-May. Will they indeed take place? [A second inaudible question is heard in the background]

[Peres] Maybe one question at a time, please.

[Raz] With your permission, I would like to refer a question to the chief of staff. The government today decided on freedom of action for the IDF and the security forces. Does it tell you that you will be able to, as of tomorrow morning, do things that you could not have done to date, that you were not authorized to do in those areas under the PA's control?

[Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq] I do not have the government decision in front of me, but in my opinion, you will not find what you said in this decision since freedom of action in antiterrorist activity existed before. The problem is not one of freedom of action, but of knowing where these terrorists come from, of reaching them, or their senders, or those who plan the attacks, be it explosives or the actual attackers, before these attackers set out on their way. We do not have, nor will we have, any problem in freedom of action, except, understandably, if it is necessary to do things such as entering the town of Gaza, for example. We would prefer the PA do so and quickly; otherwise, someone else will need to do so.

[Eldar] Mr. Peres, I want to ask you about the negotiations on the permanent arrangement which should begin in early May, in a few weeks as a matter of fact. Under the circumstances, is there any point in beginning this stage at all?

[Peres] If circumstances then are like those of today's, it will be pointless indeed, but if circumstances change by then, we will consider it.

[Television 2's Ilana Dayan] Mr. Prime Minister, in light of the situation, isn't it necessary to appoint a full-time defense minister?

[Peres] Look, in time of war, prime ministers were also defense ministers — the late David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, Menahem Begin, and Yitzhaq Rabin, for example. It is precisely in time of war that we should emphasize that security receives supreme priority. We have a new form of terror here, and our best people are trying to analyse and cope with it. It is not a situation where decisions or analyses are not made, or conclusions are rejected. We have a new form of terror, and all the conclusions I referred to were accepted after a methodical discussion by all security elements in the State of Israel. Moshe, you wanted to add a sentence. Please.

[Police Minister Moshe Shahal] The police commanders will meet immediately after this news conference to implement the decisions the government made today, primarily, positioning joint police and army forces at bus stops and on buses, positioning additional policemen from other districts to the capital. About 1,200 policemen have already been transferred to Jerusalem, and additional ones will follow. We are also talking about a high level of alert elsewhere too, and call on the Civil Guard as well as the public to report any suspicions they have. Cooperation with the public is very important to us. Thank you very much.

Israel: Netanyahu Calls For Restraint, Unity

TA0303153796 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1353 GMT 3 Mar 96

[News conference by Binyamin Netanyahu, Likud chairman, following a Likud Political Forum meeting at the Knesset in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Netanyahu] This is another stage in a succession of dark, hard days, of murderous attacks, of massacres in the heart of Jerusalem. I think our foremost duty is to act with restraint at this time. We call on the public to act to calm the raging tempers. The second thing is a general national engagement in an uncompromising struggle, a war to the bitter end against terror. We believe that such a war requires initiatives,

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some steps of ours, and above all, self-reliance, because before and after all, we are the only ones capable of guaranteeing our own security.

I met with the prime minister today and told him we will support the government if it takes determined action against terror, because such action at such a time should unite, rather than divide the nation. I hope he will embrace the proposals I made in the meeting.

One of them is a complete closure on any area in which terrorist infrastructure exists and sharp penalties for the murderers, their families, and their collaborators, including deportation, which has proved over the years to be a highly effective deterrent against terrorists, including suicide attackers.

Thirdly, since Jerusalem is the focus of the struggle, and their actions aim to induce us to abandon at least half of our capital, if not more, we believe it is appropriate at this time — it was appropriate before, but is equally so now — to remove all PLO institutions from Jerusalem and to eliminate all Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity locations in and around Jerusalem — and such locations do exist.

What is needed at the moment, above all, is for our troops to get back their freedom of action. We do not believe we can build on 'Arafat and his promises, and we cannot and should not tolerate the existence of a vast terrorist infrastructure in the heart of our country and apparently in the heart of our capital. Therefore, the foremost requirement, which is above all else and which combines everything else I have said as well as things I have not specified, is that freedom of action should be given back to all the security forces, in order to enable them to act wherever necessary and without political inhibitions.

I hope sincerely that the government will take this path, and if it does, it will have our full and unreserved support. This is truly a moment when the ranks should be closed for the sake of the struggle. Mr. Peres knows that I promised him the opposition's support last week. I can say, after another terrible day we had today, that our support will be stronger than ever if he initiates determined action against terror.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, the second candidate on your slate today proposed the establishment of a national emergency government. What do you think?

[Netanyahu] I do think there should be national emergency action, and you can see it happening right here. We are willing to lend a hand in the government's comprehensive, initiated action against terror. I did not discuss the establishment of a unity government with the prime minister, and he did not discuss it with me. We are not preoccupied with the question of portfolio distribution or anything like that, because we do not require it in return for our support. Our support is given to the government's uncompromising struggle against terror, whatever the government make-up is.

[Correspondent] Is a postponement of elections possible in this framework? [words indistinct]

[Netanyahu] I have not heard everything the prime minister said. I spoke here of our approach to what should be done, and I informed the prime minister of it during our meeting today. I sincerely hope that Mr. Peres will take the course of initiative and self-reliant action, and I guarantee him our support.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Netanyahu] I do not know the precise meaning of the term separation. If it means a fence, as in Lebanon, then the question we should ask is what lies beyond the fence. The problem we have in Lebanon is that security is jeopardized by the Hizballah murderers, another group of fundamentalists behind a fence. What characterizes the Lebanon situation, however, is that we get behind the fence and that we act anywhere necessary, subject to the judgment of the security forces. The relevant question, therefore, is not whether a fence is to be built, but rather whether we are to have freedom of action, if the situation is similar to that in the security zone which abuts on our northern border. Territories are also adjacent to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. Therefore, what is necessary is not a fence, but rather freedom of action, which is absent at the moment. In my view, this is the most appropriate, most fundamental solution to reduce and eventually eliminate terror.

[Correspondent] Sir, are you for postponing the elections in certain circumstances, as Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan suggested today?

[Netanyahu] Look, no one discussed it with us. These political issues did not arise at all in my meeting with the prime minister. We discussed very seriously and very sincerely how we can help the government at this time. We did not address political issues at all. We discussed issues we are addressing here: what should be done at the moment in order to stop this terrible spate of terror that is wounding us. Political issues were not brought up.

[Correspondent] Should the prime minister close down the PLO institutions in Jerusalem?

[Netanyahu] You are familiar with our stand on this. The prime minister voiced no reservations concerning the termination of PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities in Jerusalem, and I hope,

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therefore, that he will act on it. I understand that MK Yehoshu'a Matza's bill on closing down Orient House will be debated by the Knesset this week, and that will provide the government with an opportunity to act. Right now the situation requires action for the welfare of Jerusalem. Peace should be brought to a united Jerusalem, and action should be taken everywhere to restore personal security.

Israel: IDF Prohibits Israelis From Entering PA Areas

TA0303152596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official announcement made a short while ago states that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is prohibiting Israelis from entering into the Palestinian Authority [PA] jurisdiction. The ban refers to areas in Judaea, Samaria, and the Jericho area which have been handed over to the PA and for whose security the PA is responsible.

Israel: Former GSS Chief: Bombing Not Done by Small Terror Band

TA0303170396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The recently retired head of the General Security Service [GSS] Karmi Gilon says the bus bombings are not the work of a small band of terrorists, but of a wide network of agents. Talking with our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, Gilon says the suicide bomber is just the tip of the terrorist organization.

[Begin recording] [Gilon] From our experience, for example from the bomb in bus No. 5 on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, when we uncovered all the people who were involved in this terrorist act, there were 32 people who took part — not the same part, of course, but they took part or were in the secret of such terror act. There are not hundreds, but (?there are) many.

[Ben-'Ami] There are reports of a split within the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization, even within 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the terrorist cells of the organization. How serious do you view these reports? Do you think there is such a split?

[Gilon] I didn't hear about it, and I can't believe that such a split is possible, because 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam is a very little group, so I don't believe that it's true. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] You left the GSS just a short while ago, so let me ask you: How good is the cooperation between the GSS, between Israeli security authorities in general and the Palestinians?

[Gilon] The answer is not if it's good cooperation [words indistinct]. It changes from time to time, and I believe that nowadays they make much more effort to build up this cooperation, because otherwise, they understand they will pay a very high price. As I said, till now it was not enough, and they must do much more than they do now.

[Ben-'Ami] This bomb attack has taken place while there's a closure on the territories. Last week it happened just after the closure was eased. There's talk now not only of closure, but of a complete separation, a really tight separation, if that's possible, with more checkposts along the entire so-called Green Line. How effective is that likely to be? What is that likely to bring, if it is carried out?

[Gilon] Closure is not an answer in Judaea and Samaria, and especially not in Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is open wide and there are a lot of Palestinians living in Jerusalem. The closure is helping the police and the army by taking a lot of people out of the circle, and then it's easier to find the one Palestinian who is going to commit suicide. But it's not a real answer; it helps, with all the other measures, to prevent terror. [end recording]

Israel: Shahal Elaborates on Security Deployment, Separation

TA0303182196 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Interview with Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal in the Jerusalem Studio by 'Anat Tal-Shir in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Tal-Shir] Good day, Minister Moshe Shahal. Could you tell us what new moves the government decided on at its meeting today?

[Shahal] The cabinet decided on a series of immediate actions to reinforce units in Jerusalem and reinforce the bus guard system with male and female soldiers. As of tomorrow morning, nearly 1,000 male and female soldiers are subordinate to the police and will be deployed at bus stops. Another approximately 1,200 policemen have joined the forces in the capital, and the police will absorb an additional approximately 1,000 soldiers, in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the country. It is a state of very high alert.

Second, the cabinet made a decision on separation, under which entry into Israel will be by permit only, through regulated crossings, and there will be graver punishments for those who violate the law and enter illegally, for those who employ people without permits, for anyone who does not obey the instructions....

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[Tal-Shir, interrupting] Are you saying that at the Green Line boundaries Palestinian residents will need to present a passport and a visa?

[Shahal] If they are allowed to enter. The intention is that entrance, if at all, will take place only through regulated entrances. We are saying in fact that there will be a door which we will open if we want. In principle, we are separating the two populations. Anyone who thinks that the two nations can mix is mistaken, in my opinion. The only way is to make sure, categorically, that they cannot enter Israel, that we will be allowed entrance only if they can behave properly, that in no way are we willing to be responsible for their employment, economy, and livelihood. This is their problem.

[Tal-Shir] Before you continue, you earlier referred to the presence of male and female soldiers at bus stops. Can you explain what these soldiers will do at the stops?

[Shahal] The intention is for the soldiers to examine every passenger who boards the buses....

[Tal-Shir, interrupting] Are you talking of body search as well as search of passengers' belongings?

[Shahal] I will not elaborate on the operational details. We will have a briefing tonight. According to experience, this is the immediate necessary step. This is an interim step until we can implement today's main decision on the establishment of a guard unit of 800 security personnel which will belong in the Transportation Ministry and will operate under Israel Police guidelines. The establishment of the unit will take a while, so in the meantime, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is aiding the police with a force of soldiers, as mentioned before. The guard unit will also answer the problem of the dividing line. The government allocated 247 million shekels for this issue. We are starting the deployment at once, although it will take time to have it fully implemented. The principle is unequivocal: a separation of the two populations. It is incomprehensible that our side of the border is open, that Palestinians can enter Israel or bypass IDF roadblocks without a hitch, while we need a permit to enter Nabulus! It is incomprehensible that we are unable to enter the autonomy, while they are able to enter Israel freely! I never put up with this situation, and today's cabinet decision is clear, unequivocal, and will enhance security more than ever before. [passage omitted]

Israel: More Police, 1,000 Soldiers To Be Deployed in Jerusalem

TA0303170996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Additional police, as well as 1,000 male and female soldiers will be deployed in Jerusalem. Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz has said that, following information and estimates that more terror attacks may be perpetrated, the police have cancelled all leaves and extended work shifts.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police will act firmly to prevent any attempt to disturb the peace or harm the Arab population.

[Bushinsky's report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 3 March adds that "the police believe the explosive charge being carried by the suicide terrorist weighed more than 15 kg and was standard TNT." He adds that the police commissioner announced that the 1,200 policemen will be added to the Jerusalem contingent.]

Israel: Large Crowds Rally in Jerusalem; Mayor Urges Restraint

TA0303171196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Large demonstrating crowds are still filling Jerusalem's Yafo Street and its vicinity, and police are occasionally forced to block streets in the area. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that three policemen were hurt as the crowd rioted at the scene of the bombing. One of them was evacuated to the hospital for treatment of an eye injury. Our correspondent reports serious traffic difficulties in the area.

The Jerusalem Municipality Council held an emergency meeting, at which Mayor Ehud Olmert called on all city residents to hold back their justified feelings of rage. Mr. Olmert reported on his meeting with the prime minister, where he requested that the security deployment in the capital be reinforced.

Israel: Peres To Answer National Emergency Government Proposal Soon

TA0303180096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1715 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister met with several opposition leaders during the day, including Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan, whom he met this evening, and NRP [National Religious Party] Chairman

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Zvulun Hammer earlier today. The prime minister briefed both Eytan and Hammer on security aspects.

The meeting with Hammer included a discussion of the continuation of government activities against terror. The NRP chairman told Peres that if he wished to secure full national backing for his moves, he must halt the negotiations with the Palestinians. Hammer pointed out that the establishment of a national unity or national emergency government is contingent on the suspensiob of the political process with the Palestinian Authority. The prime minister did not share with Hammer his views on the establishment of a national unity government.

At the meeting, Refa'el Eytan reiterated his proposal for the establishment of a national emergency government that will act on only one issue — the extermination of terror. The prime minister did not respond to this idea either. He told Eytan that he will give his answer within a day or two.

Opposition members who met with the prime minister today were under the impression that the prime minister is beset by confusion. The prime minister has neither ruled out nor agreed to the establishment of a unity government. Opposition as well as Labor sources speculated tonight that the prospects for this option are very slim, even nil. At the same, it is still possible that the prime minister will propose postponing the 29 May elections to their original date of 29 October, namely five months from now. Opposition members told us tonight, however, that the opposition will not agree to postponing the elections unless the prime minister announces that the process with the Palestinians has been halted and that he plans to focus on waging an all-out war on terror. Thus, the option of postponing the elections seems rather unfeasible tonight, although sometimes political moves have dynamics of their own, and on that the prime minister will probably decide in the next day or two.

Israel: Peres-'Arafat Talk; Political Process Linked to Terror

TA0303182496 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was another talk this afternoon between the prime minister and Yasir 'Arafat. Peres again made it clear to 'Arafat: From our point of view the war has started. For the first time in his contacts with 'Arafat, Peres formed a clear link between the continuation of the political process, the evacuation of Hebron first and foremost, and 'Arafat's willingness to remove the gloves and wage a real fight against terror.

Israel: Baraq on Suspending Talks With PA, IDF Freedom

TA0303191496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Studio interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq by announcer Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Mr. Foreign Minister, have the talks with the Palestinians been practically suspended, without an actual statement to that effect by the prime minister?

[Baraq] Conducting a peace process while blood is being shed in the streets is very hard. These things do not go together. Today 'Arafat understands very well that there is linkage between the disbanding, disarming, outlawing, and arresting the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists on the one hand and the redeployment, the additional withdrawal from Hebron.

[Yavin] Will we not resume anything as long as he does not demolish Hamas?

[Baraq] Today we decided unequivocally that there is linkage between these things, that they are interrelated. Today 'Arafat started the process by announcing that these organizations have been outlawed and by sending Force-17 into Gaza; we saw his armored cars there. The question is whether the announcement will be translated into comprehensive action, whether these people will be disarmed.

[Yavin] How will we know that 'Arafat is not conning us again?

[Baraq] In my opinion, we will be able to see in the coming day or two whether or not he is taking determined steps, and we will decide on our future course of action in Hebron and on other issues on the basis of this.

[Mish'al] Mr. Minister, I would like to elaborate on Hayim's questions. Are we to read your remarks to mean that if 'Arafat fails to respond to our demands, we will neither evacuate Hebron nor pursue the political process?

[Baraq] Obviously, when blood is being shed in the streets the way it has, Hebron cannot be evacuated, and the issue cannot be discussed. The problem is that 'Arafat must be given a chance, and we are going to give him one, because we believe there are duties he should carry out. On our part, there is a key component which is

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up to us, and we will see to it. This includes reinforcing Jerusalem's security, the measures announced by the prime minister today, and preparations for future action.

[Mish'al] There is a feeling that the government is helpless. A whole lot of decisions were made, but what came out of them? There were two consecutive bombings within a week. The people are asking themselves: How much more?

[Baraq] We are in the midst of a very protracted struggle, which did not start today and will not end tomorrow. As in a boxing match, sometimes you can't help being punched badly. Today is one such bad day.

[Yavin] Can the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] enter the territories?

[Baraq] There are places it can and others we do not want to enter. The problem is not one of operational intelligence, but of a broader context. The IDF and the security services have a high operational intelligence capability, and if we have no choice, we will employ it.

[Mish'al] How do you think these two bombings will affect Shim'on Peres' prospects in the polls?

[Baraq] I think we cannot judge it today, when the public is in shock, when one's heart bleeds at the sights, and with the new families about to bury their dead.

[Yavin] Mr. Baraq, why are we not doing what the Likud leaders suggested? Why are we not taking action? The public feels very strongly that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is toying with us when it says it is acting while in fact it is not acting. Why shouldn't we take the initiative?

[Baraq] We may take initiative in all our operational intelligence activities, in the personal security sphere, as well as in demanding unequivocally that the PA act on issues in its area of responsibility.

[Mish'al] A week elapsed between the two bombings. What lessons have been learned? Why should the public believe the series of measures the government has just announced?

[Baraq] I think the public believes because the government is not the problem. The security forces and the IDF are doing all they can against terror. There are no restrictions on the IDF or on its freedom of action, and in fact, not on the other security forces or security services either. We are exhausting our capabilities. I do not doubt our tenacity, I do not doubt that we will defeat terror, I do not doubt that it will not dictate our moves for long, but I must note with regret that I do not doubt that we will have more taxing moments. We should bite our lips and continue forward in order to defeat terrorism.

[Yavin] Mr. Baraq, we have an agreement with 'Arafat. How will we know that 'Arafat has carried out his part of the agreement? The prime minister said today: We will not continue the negotiations unless the infrastructure is demolished and the organizations are disarmed. Do we have a way to verify this? Will we know whether he is disbanding the organizations, whether he is disarming them?

[Baraq] When he outlaws and disbands the organizations and arrests people, we will know it.

[Yavin] Not before?

[Baraq] Right. And if he does not do it, we will know that, too, and draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Mish'al] If we receive intelligence information about an operation being planned inside the PA, will IDF troops be able to act inside that area to prevent it? Has the government discussed this option?

[Baraq] Nisim, I am certain you do not expect to receive a detailed answer to this question in front of a camera.

[Yavin] Will these measures — the fence, the separation, and augmented bus security — solve at least 80 percent of the problem? Will they solve anything?

[Baraq] They will support our progress toward a more secure situation. It will happen gradually, not overnight. I do not want to delude the public that tomorrow we will become Sweden or Norway. We are not them; this is the Middle East, and we are in the midst of a struggle, and it is vital that our tenacity as a society should not crack, no matter how severe the events are. After all, it is a struggle of wills between two nations, and our tenacity will affect the outcome.

[Mish'al] Did the consultations you attended today with Hayim Ramon, the prime minister, and Yosi Beilin address the option of postponing the elections in the wake of the dilemma in which the government has found itself?

[Baraq] The government will operate until the elections. I do not think it is the right day to deal with election dates or any other such thing. The government will operate all the way to election day, and I hope it will receive a mandate to carry on after that.

[Yavin] One last question: Does the government truly sense the public's feelings of vulnerability and helplessness?

[Baraq] We meet with the public, and we naturally sense their feelings of pain, rage, mourning, and frustration at the fact that 50 of our people were killed inside Jerusalem within one week. It is very painful. I feel,

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however, that basically the public understands that we are in the midst of a bitter struggle, that terror has existed throughout our existence and it will exist in the future, and that to defeat it, we have to do everything we can in the sphere of operational intelligence, personal security, and making demands on the Palestinians.

[Yavin] Thank you very much for coming to our studio, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Baraq] Thank you and the listeners.

Israel: Peres Adviser: No Need for PA Approval To Enter Autonomy

TA0303192696 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is the reaction of Aliza Goren, the media adviser of Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, to Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] entering Palestinian autonomy locations: Israel does not need the Palestinian Authority's [PA] permission to enter the village of al-Fawwar. This is the village from which the two terrorists in last week's bombings came. Ms. Goren added: If we deem it necessary, we will enter without hesitation.

Israel: Security Strip To Separate West Bank From Israel

TA0403061696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will set up a dividing zone [merhav hatefer], a 2-km-wide security strip that will separate Israel from the West Bank. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned that the commander of the Central Command will soon issue an order whereby the entry of Palestinians into this dividing zone, which will run from Janin in the north to the southern Hebron Hills, will be banned. Palestinians whose homes are in this strip or who have fields in it will be issued special permits. Our correspondent points out that the dividing zone is designed to provide security to the Jewish settlements and to ease the enforcement of procedures for entering and exiting the territories.

[A report by Ilana Baum, Doron Me'iri, Tzvi Singer, and military correspondent Dani Sade on page 10 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 4 March adds that the strip "will include all the areas in Judaea and Samaria abutting the Green Line." The report adds that "a 12-km electronic fence will be erected near the village of Hablah, next to the Israeli settlement of Bat-Hefer, and in the Tulkarm area, next to the Israeli settlement of Eyal. Electronic devices to detect infiltrations will be installed in areas where a fence cannot be erected."]

Israel: List of Hamas Offices Operating in Jerusalem Given to Peres

TA0403062096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert gave Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a list of six Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem on behalf of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The list is included in a document drafted by elements close to the defense establishment. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that according to the document, a branch of al-Quds University, which spreads Hamas' political and social ideology, operates near Rockefeller Museum; charity societies used to channel funds to Hamas operate in Sur Bahir and Bayt Safafa; and a body called the Sacred Earth Fund transfers aid and donations to Islamic elements overseas.

Israel: Angry Protests Against Bombing

TA0403064396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A number of angry protests in the wake of the terrorist attack took place around the country last night. In Jerusalem, two youths attacked an Arab on the No. 1 road. He was lightly injured and taken to hospital. A number of Jewish youths threw stones at Arab cars on the road, injuring one of the passengers in the face. Eighteen people were detained for questioning in Jerusalem following antigovernment demonstrations. Three police officers were injured dispersing the crowds. There were also confrontations between the police and demonstrators at gatherings on Hanevi'im Street and the Pat and Gilo intersections.

Elsewhere, demonstrators blocked Ra'anana junction. In Holon, protesters burned tires. Police arrested two people for causing disturbances. In Tel Aviv, six people were detained for burning tires.

Israel: Talks With Syria Expected To Resume 5 Mar

TA0403065196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 96 p A7

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Gay Bekhor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The peace talks between Israel and Syria in Maryland will not resume until Syria finds appropriate ways to condemn the acts of

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terror against Israel. This is the inclination emerging in the deliberations held over the weekend between the senior political echelon in Jerusalem and the Israeli delegation in Washington. At the instruction of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Uri Savir, the head of the Israeli delegation, informed the Americans that the talks would not resume today as scheduled.

Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. peace team, passed the message on to Walid al-Mu'allim, the head of the Syrian delegation, and repeated the demand that Syria condemn terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians. Israeli sources said that the Syrians expressed understanding for the decision to cancel the meeting that was scheduled for today in the wake of the deep mourning in Israel, but they are expecting the talks to resume tomorrow. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 4 March reports that "because of the terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, negotiations between Israel and Syria in Maryland will resume tomorrow and not today, as was scheduled. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres decided that the talks would not take place until after the funerals of the victims. Israel coordinated its decision with the American mediators who conveyed the message to the Syrian delegation."]

Israel: IDF Troops Raid Bus Bombers' Refugee Camp Near Hebron

TA0403073096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning a large number of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops entered the al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron where the two suicide bombers who staged last week's terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon lived. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that all the men in the camp were rounded up in the local school and are being interrogated by Shin Bet officers in a bid to locate people who assisted the two bombers. The security forces also plan to seal the homes of the two terrorists.

Israel: Government Spokesman, Ambassador View Bus Bomb in Jerusalem

LD0403105996 London BBC Television Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Interview with Moshe Raviv, Israeli ambassador to London, in London, and Uri Dromi, Israeli Government spokesman, in Jerusalem, by moderator David Frost; from the "Breakfast With Frost" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Frost] When did you hear this news?

[Raviv] At 0600 this morning. I listen to Israeli news every morning, and it was the first item, and it overshadowed everything else. It is very difficult to explain in words the sense of shock, of outrage at this terrible act.

[Frost] Absolutely. Well, that is a shared feeling. Obviously, as in fact Mr. 'Arafat said, the target is first of all Israeli lives, but after that, the target is obviously — Hamas's [Islamic Resistance Movement] target is — the whole peace process, and it does look as though they are having some effect.

[Raviv] Well, this is certainly a time for action and not a time for words. The Israeli Government is now in session looking at the situation, but the Palestinian Administration must also look at the situation, because if they are trying to undermine them, they are trying to undermine 'Arafat, to undermine the Palestinian Administration, to undermine the elections and the first dignified existence they have achieved after many years. So, everybody must act. 'Arafat must act, the Palestinian Administration must act, and the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who want to change their existence and to keep the peace process going, they must act against these Hamas Jihad people.

[Frost] Well, we will carry on in one moment, but we are now joined in this — it is a three-way conversation — because Uri Dromi, the [Israeli] Government spokesman is joining us now, I think, from Jerusalem. What is the latest news from you at this time, Mr. Dromi? From all of us, our grief and our condolences.

[Dromi] Thank you, David. It stands at 18 dead, but this is not the final toll because it seems like some people are not identified yet, and some 10 wounded, seven of whom are critically wounded. The mood is somber and the government is meeting, and that is about it here.

[Frost] And in fact we were just talking, I do not know if you could hear, with the ambassador, and we were just talking about the scale of the threat to the peace process. How do you assess that there in Jerusalem right now?

[Dromi] Well, right now, emotions run high and obviously the peace process, it seems, is remote as ever. But I think when things calm down, and I hope they will, people here will reaffirm their commitment to the peace process. And I heard what the ambassador said, and he is right; we need, in order to achieve that, we need to see that the Palestinian Authority is doing much more than it is doing right now, and indeed, the Palestinian people should speak up their minds loud and clear, not vaguely, but really forcefully come forward and delegitimize and pull the rug under the feet of those terrorists;

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otherwise, it will be very difficult to keep Israeli supporters of peace in line.

[Frost] But the problem, as we have seen in the past here with the IRA, is that in situations of suicide bombing and so on, in addition to what the Palestinians should try and do, it is very difficult to fight that sort thing. Is there anything more you can do without turning the free country of Israel into a fortress?

[Dromi] Yes, indeed, it is very difficult. We have a long way to go in fighting terrorism, and you in Britain, you know very well. But I think the way to take on this kind of threat is first of all to have the resilience and the willpower and the determination that we will go on and fight them, and we will not play into their hands. And I think, in order to do so, we have to realize there is no quick fix, there is no once-and-for-all solution. We need to go on and fight them. And we have been fighting terribly for — [changes thought] We fought hijacking of airplanes before, and we persevered, and we are not in the habit of losing wars. We are going to win this one as well.

[Frost] Do you think it is possible that with this battle, this war, as you say, going on, would it be a good idea to delay the election?

[Dromi] I do not think anybody thinks about elections at this point.

[Frost] Well, that is what I meant, really, yes.

[Dromi] Let me tell you something personal. This morning, when I got the call that the bomb went off, I rushed to the room of my 16-year-old, who is taking the same bus every morning, and much to my relief, he was still asleep. He just overslept; and I think this reflects the mood, the feelings of Israelis. It is very personal, everything is emotional, everything is personal, but still, this is a democracy. I think we will go to elections, and I think people have to make up their mind — is there a more suitable or viable alternative than the peace process? But at the same time, I am sure the Israeli Government will make all the necessary measures and steps to protect it's citizens.

[Frost] Uri, thank you very much for joining us this morning. And there, of course, you had that moving, chilling thought of how he could have been involved, his family could have been involved; and this is obviously a feeling that anyone in Jerusalem must be having, and anyone in Tel Aviv must be having, in the sense of thinking: next time, it could be me.

[Raviv] And anyone who has relatives there. I mean, the first thing was to call in to see whether everybody was all right, of course. But the main thing now is to act against this, and the action has to be comprehensive. We shall do our share, the Palestinians have to do their share. Public opinion and religious leaders in the Palestinian camp have to dissect these elements; and there is nothing religious about young people blowing themselves up, and blowing up other people; and they have to come out — it is not, I am sure that it is not consistent with real Islam, it is not consistent with real religion; and countries that, money from them are flowing to Hamas and to Jihad, have to make every effort in order to make sure that no money and no funds are going to these movements. [sentence as heard]

[Frost] And what did you make, ambassador, out of that: I mean, Hamas appeared to offer a cease-fire this week with a set of unacceptable conditions, but why did they do that, and why was it rejected even as an approach?

[Raviv] Hamas, they are talking in many voices and in very different voices, under different names, but the Palestinian Administration knows exactly who are the leaders, where the infrastructure is, and they can get at their explosives and their guns and at their people, and this is what they have to do. It is not a leaflet here or a flier there that will make the difference. The difference will be made only if the infrastructure, if the leadership [changes thought] — because it is true that one blows himself up, but without the infrastructure, without the people who are getting the materials, getting the explosives, without the people who are arranging all this, this cannot be achieved. So it is at the infrastructure that we have to get.

Israel: 'Terrorist' Shot in Hebron After Attacking Soldiers

TA0403093296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, a terrorist tried to stab soldiers in Hebron's Gross Square. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the soldiers opened fire and wounded him.

Israel: IDF Undertaking 'Unprecedented' Sanctions in al-Fawwar Camp

TA0403093796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops operating in the al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron have arrested dozens of local residents suspected of having aided the two terrorists who set out from the camp to perpetrate the bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon last week. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that the terrorists' relatives were also arrested.

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Colonel Gadi, the IDF commander in the Hebron area, said this refugee camp was a hotbed of terror and that serious sanctions were being taken against its residents. He said these sanctions were unprecedented, but refused to elaborate. The IDF commander added that the IDF had applied for orders to demolish and seal the houses of the terrorists in al-Fawwar and the house of the terrorist from al-'Ayzariyah who staged the attack on the No. 26 bus in Jerusalem [in August 1995], and was now awaiting their approval.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 4 March adds that "a curfew has been clamped on the refugee camp and the area has been declared a closed military zone."]

Our correspondent adds that security sources in the area note that the identity of the terrorist who perpetrated yesterday's attack in Jerusalem has not yet been ascertained.

Israel: Shin Bet Warns of More Attacks, Notes 'Distress'

TA0403094396 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Mar 96 p 7

[Report by Erez Rotem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet fears that the wave of terror attacks will continue. Shin Bet sources maintained yesterday that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists "have the means and the ability to continue carrying out terror attacks, if they want to." They also warned that attacks are expected to take place abroad.

Senior Shin Bet members yesterday rejected recent criticism leveled at the organization. "The political echelons have not given the Shin Bet enough time to prepare for the changes introduced by the Oslo agreements," they claimed, "which is why the Shin Bet is in distress and has difficulties locating the perpetrators."

A senior source added that "the Shin Bet has a real problem in terms of providing real-time intelligence from and operating sources in areas under Palestinian rule." The source claimed that since Oslo A was signed, the borders between the territories and neighboring Arab countries have bursted open and large quantities of standard explosives have been coming into the autonomous areas. The source stressed that "the explosives have been arriving from Egypt and from the sea. Without them, the Hamas terrorists would not be able to carry out the grave suicide attacks we have been experiencing."

The Shin Bet warned yesterday that "we must not focus exclusively on the issue of public transportation." Sources in the Shin Bet security wing warned that we must not forget that a suicide attacker could carry out a similar attack in any crowded place.

Israel: Foreign Ministry Seeking International Pressure on 'Arafat

TA0403101096 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Mar 96 p 15

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that the ministry will try to create "a united front of heavy international pressure on Yasir 'Arafat and against the terror organizations."

Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq yesterday drafted a letter on the issue to his counterparts in various countries. At the same time, the Foreign Ministry issued instructions to all Israeli ambassadors, consuls, and heads of representations to seek frequent media appearances and in them to indicate that 'Arafat is responsible for the attacks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan will hold meetings this morning with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, the charge d'affaires of the Jordanian Embassy, and head of the Moroccan representation in Israel, and will explain to them the steps the Israeli Government is planning to take.

Israel: Hamas Network in Jerusalem Believed Aided Suicide Bombers

TA0403110396 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Steve Rodan an Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has restored its terrorist network in Jerusalem and its members are believed to have provided support for the two suicide bombings in the capital over the last eight days, security sources said yesterday.

The sources said that only weeks after the capture of a Hamas cell responsible for the planning of several bus bombings, including that in Ramot Eshkol last year, the organization has rebuilt its terrorist network in eastern Jerusalem.

For several weeks, security officials expressed concern that Hamas was returning to Jerusalem but after the two suicide bombings they are now said to be convinced that the organization's infrastructure has been restored.

Security sources said Hamas terrorists in Jerusalem are in close contact with those in the territories who sent the

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suicide bombers on their mission. The Jerusalem cell, the sources said, probably provided the suicide bombers with last-minute instructions, intelligence and even the explosives necessary for the attacks.

"You just don't bring in 15 or 30 kilograms of TNT on your back or put it on your lap in a taxi cab," a security source said. "It is likely that these things are prepared the minute you are about to embark on your mission."

The sources said the alleged mastermind of the latest wave of suicide bombings, Muhyi al-Din al-Sharif, has made his home in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Bayt Hanina. He also attended Abu-Dis College, regarded as a hotbed of Islamic militancy.

Security sources said Hamas enjoys widespread support in eastern Jerusalem, and unlike in the territories, its political leaders often coordinate with Fatah activists and those aligned with the Palestinian Authority.

Security officials have long argued over the best way to minimize Hamas's influence in Jerusalem. Some of them, particularly in the General Security Service [GSS], have argued for close coordination with the Palestinian Authority as well as ensuring open access to Islamic holy places to reduce unrest. Other officials, particularly in the police, have urged a crackdown on what they call the network of schools, charities and clergy that form the backbone of the organizations support system.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert also charged yesterday that the Hamas infrastructure exists in eastern Jerusalem with the full knowledge of the government.

Olmert was not referring specifically to Hamas terror infrastructure, but to an array of allegedly Hamas-affiliated welfare, education, and social organizations.

Olmert raised the matter of these institutions, which are used by Hamas to increase Palestinian public support for the organization, in his meeting after the attack with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, sources close to the mayor said.

Among the organizations named by Olmert were the Central Islamic Welfare Organization, Islamic Science and Technology Association, and the Islamic religion faculties of Al-Quds University.

Olmert told Peres that those and other Hamas-affiliated groups operate in eastern Jerusalem with the knowledge of the GSS, and that immediate action is necessary to shut them down.

Israel: More Details on Hebron Stabbing; Settlers React

TA0403113696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist stabbed two yeshiva students in Hebron's Gross Square, injuring one of them moderately and the other lightly. The two were evacuated to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops set in pursuit of the assailant and caught him, wounded in the shoulder, a short time ago. This is reported by our correspondent Gay Qotev.

Reacting to the incident, the Jewish Settlement Committee in Hebron demanded to call off the IDF redeployment plan in Hebron. The head of the Qiryat Arba' council called on the government to act with determination in Hebron, which is a focus of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity.

Israel: Arab Ambassadors Urged To Fight Terror, Influence 'Arafat

TA0403105596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan today called on the Arab ambassadors in Israel to exercise their influence to fight terror. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that Dayan met with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and the charges d'affaires of Jordan and Morocco and called on them to take measures against incitement and bring their full influence to bear on PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to switch from words to deeds and to act against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and its infrastructure. Deputy Minister Dayan stressed that the situation is difficult and that many Israelis have lost their faith in peace.

Ambassador Basyuni told our correspondent that Egypt agrees that terror must be fought but believes that the peace process must be pursued at the same time. The Jordanian and Moroccan envoys conveyed their governments' positions.

Israel: Explosion in Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, Many Casualties

TA0403141596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1407 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the police have received information on an explosion in Dizengoff Street. This is a preliminary police report, which says there are

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casualties in this attack. It is still unclear what caused this explosion.

Apparently there are many casualties in this attack, which occurred on a bus in Dizengoff Street.

Israel: Explosion Believed Car Bomb; Many Dead, Wounded

TA0403143496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1422 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosion occurred in Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv less than half an hour ago. It is still not clear whether this was a bus or car bomb. Apparently the latter was the case.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1426 GMT on 4 March adds: "There are many dead and wounded, but the precise number is still unclear. It is still not clear whether it was a suicide attack on a bus or whether a terrorist blew himself up at a pedestrian crossing."]

Israel: 10 Killed, 30 Wounded in Dizengoff Attack

TA0403144196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1434 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that according to an unofficial police report 10 people have been killed and 30 people wounded in the Dizengoff attack.

It is still not clear if the suicide terrorist is one of the 10.

Israel: Peres Calls Emergency Cabinet Session

TA0403151296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1458 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister is convening an emergency cabinet session this evening. Peres ordered the cabinet to convene at 1930 [1730 GMT]. The special cabinet session will be held in Tel Aviv.

Yesterday the prime minister said: We have declared war on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. I can hazard a guess that today the government will declare an all-out war with all this implies. It may include an order to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to start moving forces toward the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We are clearly in a totally new situation, a state of war, with all this means both legally and from the security point of view.

The prime minister is now on his way to the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and perhaps to the explosion site as well. The cabinet session this evening can safely be described as extremely important.

Israel: Bomber Blew Up Self When Refused Entry to Shopping Center

TA0403152096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1505 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The latest casualty figures we have at this moment are that there are at least 50 wounded, of whom 15 are seriously injured, in Ichilov Hospital. At Tel Hashomer Hospital there are seven people injured, and the death toll we have is 12 dead. These are unofficial figures, but there are 12 dead in the blast at Dizengoff Center.

We also understand that the suicide terrorist did try to go into Dizengoff Center, but when he was stopped by policemen, he blew himself up on the spot, and this appears to indicate that he did try to go into the very, very crowded Dizengoff Center where there were thousands of people roaming around. Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo said he was stopped at he tried to enter.

There is also a report, as yet unconfirmed, that there may be another explosive charge in the area, suggesting that someone who was described as an Arab may be lying on the ground with a backpack and police sappers are suspicious that in the backpack there are explosives.

Israel: 20 Fatalities, Over 50 Wounded in Dizengoff Attack

TA0403155496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1540 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Report by Ge'ula Even]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am at Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv. There is a great deal of mayhem. Tel Aviv Police Commander Gabi Lass has updated correspondents. He said there are 20 fatalities, as far as he knows, and over 50 wounded, most of whom were taken to Ichilov Hospital.

The prime minister and the public security minister are due to arrive here soon and the police are preparing for their arrival because tempers here are running very high.

Gabi Lass said disinformation has been passed around, but that the incident was almost certainly caused by a lone terrorist — and not a car bomb or a bus explosion — who blew himself up while in the pedestrian crossing while carrying explosives on his body.

There was a high police presence in Tel Aviv, but the terrorist succeeded in detonating the explosives here at the corner of Dizengoff and King George Streets.

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Israel: Unidentified Caller Says 'Terrorist' Act by Hamas Member From Ramallah

TA0403160896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An unidentified person telephoned Qol Yisra'el's Arabic service a short time ago and said that the Tel Aviv terrorist attack was perpetrated by Salah 'Abd-al-Rahim, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member from Ramallah.

Israel: Correspondent Describes Expected Measures Against Hamas

TA0403161596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1552 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister will arrive at the cabinet session directly from the site of the explosion; this is the third painful tour Peres has made to such sites in the last eight days. The cabinet will hold a special meeting at 1730 GMT.

Beyond the briefings and information on what measures the Palestinian Authority [PA] is expected to take, I believe that several things can be said for sure: the political negotiations are nothing more than a theory now. There is absolutely no chance that the negotiations will resume. In addition, it does not appear that Hebron will be evacuated in the near future.

Further steps expected to be taken: A massive deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, including from Area B which is under the PA's control but where Israel bears the overall security responsibility. It is also possible that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be ordered — perhaps the initial order has already been given — to enter several places in Area A, that is, cities abutting the dividing line between Israel and the West Bank.

This emergency situation has actually become an international situation. Warren Christopher cut short a visit and returned for a special consultation convened by President Clinton at the White House following the recent attacks. This is an extremely grave situation which can have political ramifications in terms of, for example, the talk about a national unity government.

I believe that at this stage the government and the prime minister are mainly concerned with implementing several military steps which will clearly express the prime minister's declaration of war. In addition, Minister Harish's proposal to establish a supreme antiterror headquarters will be raised. Tonight the government will implement some measures on the ground, among them all the measures I mentioned. There is no longer any political process and the IDF is reentering the picture in terms of Israel's contacts with the territories.

Israel: Peres Comments on Tel Aviv, Jerusalem Attacks

TA0403170496 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon in Jerusalem on 4 March — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shilon] Mr. Prime Minister, terrorism stuck Jerusalem Sunday [3 March] last week and yesterday, and tonight terrorism struck Tel Aviv. How long will this go on?

[Peres] We will strike back at them. It is a war, there are blows, there is pain, it is a test for the entire nation, it is a test for the Israeli Government. We will not bow our heads. I am certain we will win.

[Shilon] Isn't there a feeling that we are at a crossroads, that a reevaluation is called for?

[Peres] There is still no tested answer for the problem of suicide bombers. It must be dealt with it in its entirety: Its causes, its operators, its instigators, and its perpetrators. We will carry out comprehensive activities against all those components.

[Shilon] This evening's attack did not take place in Jerusalem, but in Tel Aviv once again. At yesterday's news conference you said Jerusalem would be the main target for defense activity. If that's the case, how do we prevent attacks in Tel Aviv?

[Peres] As in Jerusalem, we will also take the necessary measures in Tel Aviv after we investigate precisely what happened — who entered, who blew up — since we cannot prevent it from happening again if we don't know what occurred. In the coming hours, we will know exactly what happened.

[Shilon] Is Yasir 'Arafat again the address to make demands or will we act on our own?

[Peres] Yasir 'Arafat is the address from which to demand action against the infrastructure or against the very existence of an armed body in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, against permitting that arm to exist publicly and legally, and against permitting them to be armed. We are not calling on 'Arafat to defend us, we want him to serve us. We will defend ourselves and fight this terrible phenomenon.

[Shilon] But concerning the things you said 'Arafat was responsible for, do you rely on him?

[Peres] I rely on him to the extent that he represents what he is supposed to represent. I do not think he

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is a representative of the State of Israel. He is the representative of the Palestinian Authority; therefore, he has the duty to fulfill his part in the agreement signed between us. On that, there will not be any compromises, and I will demand that he uphold the letter and spirit of the entire agreement.

[Shilon] Yesterday, you visited the site of the Jerusalem attack, and when you received the report about the attack in Tel Aviv, I saw you sitting here opposite me, and a your face did not move. How do manage to stay in control?

[Peres] In such cases, you must be in control of all your feelings. If you think I do not have feelings, you are mistaken. If you think I do not have tears, you are mistaken. But, I want to surprise you by saying that despite the deep emotion and the burning tears, self-control is vital to perform my job. Therefore, I will continue behaving this way.

[Shilon] Didn't it cross your mind this evening that there is nothing to discuss and no one to discuss it with, that this generation is destined for war?

[Peres] No, I don't give up so quickly. I have already seen everything. I have seen the Yom Kippur War, how people almost lost hope and thought that the state could not be saved; I saw the Scud attacks; I saw the Entebbe Operation; I was at the Savoy Hotel [a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv in the 1970's]. In such cases, we must not lose faith, and I don't lose faith.

[Shilon] There have been terrorist attacks despite the closure, and perhaps despite the dividing line that will be set up in the next few days.

[Peres] If that will not suffice, then we will adopt additional measures. We have an array of measures and we will not hesitate to use all of them.

[Shilon] We differentiate between Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] political arm and its military arm. Why? The political wing is doing virtually the same as the military arm: It preaches murder and the inferno.

[Peres] We do not differentiate between the political and military arms. We differentiate between those who bear arms and use it and those who do not. Our enemies are anybody bearing arms or using them, and even those who preach using them, and we will act against them with an iron fist.

[Shilon] Yesterday, after the attack in Jerusalem, you spoke with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and Ari'el Sharon. This evening will you perhaps call on them to join an emergency national unity government?

[Peres] First we have to find out exactly what happened this evening, and only then will we decide what to do. You should have no doubt, however, that I will do everything that has to be done to fight terrorism.

[Shilon] Did you consider the possibility that perhaps the path down which you are going and leading the nation should be changed? Perhaps we should stop, look backward, and say that we have made a mistake.

[Peres] Look, all these attacks would also have occurred without peace. Perhaps there would have been more attacks. Perhaps there would still be an intifadah. This is not the right time to confuse ourselves. This is a time to consider things clearly and realistically with our eyes looking forward.

[Shilon] After yesterday's attack the public no longer showed restraint. We heard cries of 'Peres go home,' 'Peres is a murderer,' and 'Long live Yig'al 'Amir.' How are you coping with this?

[Peres] Deep inside I can understand the public's rage, although I regret these calls. At the same time I know that I am bound to fulfill my role without any hesitation or trepidation, and this is precisely what I will do.

[Shilon] Last week the papers wrote that it was a terrible week for you. Now it appears this situation is continuing.

[Peres] Look, there have been many terrible weeks in my life. If there is a lesson to be learned here it is that we have overcome all of these weeks, and we will overcome it this time as well. Painful as it is, this is the truth.

[Shilon] Do you not experience moments in which you tell yourself that you have no more strength, that you feel like crying?

[Peres] I feel like any soldier or civilian at the front. I am not a person who runs away from difficult situations.

[Shilon] Yesterday a Jew from Yafo said that politically he supports Labor, but perhaps it is preferable to vote for the Likud, seeing as how Labor will always support a Likud peace initiative — and the Likud has no alternative to making peace with the Palestinians. What do you say to this Jew?

[Peres] This is a wise Jew, but he forgot that there is another side of the coin — namely, anybody who wants to fight terrorism should join Labor, because we are in favor of peace and if we implement firm measures against terrorism the Likud will obviously join us. This logic operates both ways.

[Shilon] Mr. Prime Minister, I invite you to face the camera and tell the Israeli public — the children

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who wanted to celebrate Purim in Dizengoff Center and instead experienced this hellish attack.... [changes thought] What can you tell the public?

[Peres] Israel is a great nation that has experienced great dangers and many painful days. There is no sense in downplaying the pain and sorrow or the great danger we are facing. However, there is also no point in denying our ability to withstand all of this, to persevere and come out of this stronger. This time too, with all the pain I feel, we will come out stronger.

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Jordan: King Denounces 'All Forms of Extremism'

JN0203105196 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn, may God protect him, said that according to the peace agreement with Israel, Jordan was able to regain its occupied territory. Water was shared and Israel's longest borders with the Arabs became secure without the need for foreign forces or international observers, he said.

In a lecture he delivered at Oxford University, his majesty denounced all forms of extremism. He noted that the assassination of Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed that extremism is not limited to one people only.

His majesty said: Extremism is connected to deprivation, poverty, and ignorance. He said extremists are narrow-minded. He also said their objectives are evil.

His majesty also denounced the terrorism that uses Islam as a cover. He said: I, as a Muslim, Arab, Hashemite, and Jordanian, feel very sad when I see terrorism connected to Islam or when it is claimed that it represents Islam. My religious duty dictates that I should tell you and the entire world that this is not Islam. It is my duty to explain to people the real face of Islam.

In his lecture, His Majesty King Husayn called for a better understanding of the substance of peace. He said: Peace among the children of Abraham is a religious duty which we all must fulfill.

Jordan: King Expresses 'Anger,' 'Disgust' Over Bus Bombing

JN0303152696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his anger and disgust over the bus bombing in Jerusalem today.

In a telephone conversation with Israeli Television, his majesty said: I am very angry, and I am disgusted by this cowardly and inhuman crime. His majesty added that the explosion, which the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has claimed responsibility for, is an extremely flagrant provocation designed to prompt a serious Israeli retaliation that could undermine the peace process.

[Amman PETRA in Arabic at 1510 GMT on 3 March adds: "His majesty said that this explosion should increase the peace camp's determination to stand against terrorism from any direction. His majesty asserted that he is confident that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is doing his best to stop such attacks."]

Jordan: Prime Minister Convey's 'Heartfelt' Condolences to Peres

JN0303122596 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti spoke on the telephone to Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Shim'on Peres and conveyed the Jordanian Government's heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in the criminal incident which took place in Jerusalem this morning. He wished the wounded speedy recovery.

Al-Kabariti told Mr. Peres that the Jordanian Government condemns this criminal and terrorist action which targeted the innocent and children as well as peace and the good efforts being made at all levels to accomplish and entrench peace. He added that such actions also seek to disrupt security and stability in the region — something which cannot be accepted under any justification. He described the incident as disgusting. He noted that the peace- loving forces everywhere should unite to relentlessly combat this form of criminal behavior everywhere.

The prime minister stressed the importance of urging a concerted international effort to fight terrorism and punish the parties and states that support it.

Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir described the bombing of the Israeli bus in Jerusalem as a criminal incident that has no place in our civilized world. In an interview with the Israeli Radio, he said: We feel that these actions target the lives of the innocent as well as peace and all the good efforts being made at all levels to achieve it. They also seek to disrupt security and stability in the region.

The minister said that Jordan believes that such action cannot be accepted under any justification. He said the peace-loving forces everywhere should join forces to fight this type of criminal behavior.

Jordan: Minister Denounces Jerusalem Bombing as 'Barbaric Act'

JN0303174396 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1707 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir also denounced the Jerusalem explosion as a barbaric act that will jeopardize the peace process.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] Jordan condemns this barbaric act in the strongest possible form. The prime minister a short while ago has phoned [Israeli] Prime Minister Peres to express the government's condolences and to emphasize that this act is not aimed only at

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innocent lives in Israel, but at the whole peace process of which we are part.

The prime minister also expressed to Prime Minister Peres Jordan's support for any joint effort that would involve Israel and other parties in order to combat these acts and try to stop them.

Jordan is ready to cooperate in any possible way with Israel and other parties concerned in order to stop these acts. We cannot allow in any way or form the peace process to stop. And we cannot allow the forces against peace to succeed and to really deprive the people of this area from peace and prosperity that they deserve. [end recording]

Jordan: Information Minister Condemns Jerusalem Bombing

JN0303084496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0736 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir by Sa'id Mu'addy in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addy] Is this Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Yes.

[Mu'addy] Good morning, Dr. Marwan.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Good morning.

[Mu'addy] A short while ago Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti telephoned Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to offer condolences. Dr. Marwan, what is your comment on this criminal and terrorist action?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The least that can be said is that it is a criminal action and has no place in this civilized world. Such actions target the lives of the innocent as well as peace and the good efforts being made at all levels to accomplish and enhance peace. They also seek to disrupt security and stability in the region. Jordan believes that such an action is unacceptable under any justification and that all peace-loving forces everywhere should unite to combat this type of criminal behavior everywhere. Only a short while ago, the prime minister contacted Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and offered the government's heartfelt condolences to those killed in this criminal incident and wished those injured speedy recovery. He expressed the Jordanian Government's readiness to cooperate in combating terrorism so that these actions will be eradicated and denied the opportunity to halt the peace process.

[Mu'addy] Of course, all international efforts should be pooled to combat terrorism. Jordan undoubtedly is ready to do that as you mentioned. Then, all countries should pool their efforts to fight terrorism.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Absolutely, yes. This operation aims to halt all that has been achieved and to deprive all peoples of the region from living in stability and prosperity. Therefore, this issue not only concerns Israel, but all peace-loving peoples which should join forces to fight these terrorist actions.

[Mu'addy] Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Marwan al- Mu'ashshir, thank you very much.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Thank you.

Jordan: Prince Hasan Phones 'Arafat, Voices Support

JN0303135696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, phoned Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, and expressed his support and that of the Jordanian people for the Palestinian people's efforts toward preserving their historic achievements.

His highness expressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and their leadership in the peace process, and for its continuation. His highness inquired about the conditions of the kinsfolk and emphasized the continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian Arab people, as it has always been.

'Arafat hailed the Jordanian position, and expressed thanks and appreciation for the continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian Arab people.

Jordan: Writer Assails 'Schizophrenic' Syrian Stand on Bombings

JN0203113596 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Mar 96 pp 20, 24

["Last Stop" column by Salih al-Qallab: "Denouncing in English; Supporting in Arabic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of our totalitarian Arab states last week adopted a position which, to the say the least, is one of the vestiges of the past when any state could force its people to hear only what it wants them to hear and to read only what its writers write. This was a time when the globe was not yet as small as a man's fist, or to put it mildly, a global village.

Last week, one of the Arab capitals adopted two conflicting stands vis-a-vis the two suicidal Jerusalem and Ashqelon operations. The first stance, denouncing the operations, appeared in an English-language paper

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[SYRIA TIMES]; while the second, expressing sympathy verging on actual support, appeared in all the Arabic-language papers.

It is obvious that this Arabic capital is well aware that its people, or most of them, do not read or understand English. That is why it voiced its true position regarding the two operations in the language understood by Israel and which is most commonly used in the Western world and the United States. However, the position that was adopted and presented for local consumption was published in the Arabic papers.

This is a case of political schizophrenia. The English language is used is to convey what is important for whom it may concern, while the Arabic language is used to convey what is not important for whom it may not concern.

Those who still deal with their people in this schizophrenic manner need to realize that the method of dictating ideas and stuffing people's heads with what the regimes want has become obsolete and worn out. The world has become a global village and the technological advancement achieved throughout the past two decades managed to wipe out all borders, tear down all barriers, and forcefully break into people's homes in the most remote parts of the earth.

No longer is a state capable of molding its people's minds and feeding them with media meals prepared in its special cuisines. We live in the age of transistors and inter-continental transmissions that broadcast round the clock and in all human languages. We live in the age of satellite dishes and television stations that have entered into homes, offices, and even bedouin tents without asking for permission. This is the age of fax machines that give headaches to all the intelligence departments of the Arab states.

Jordan: King Husayn Meets KDP Representatives in London

JN0203194896 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time in two days, His Majesty King Husayn has received the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] representative in London, Muhsin Duzayy, personal envoy of the party leader, and Hashyar Zubari, member of the KDP Political Bureau and official in charge of the party's foreign relations.

The meeting was held at 1440 and lasted half an hour. The Jordanian ambassador to the United Kingdom and two of the king's national security advisers attended the meeting.

The party representatives delivered a written message from the party leader to His Majesty King Husayn which he welcomed and positively assessed.

The party representatives explained the KDP's policies and stands on the current state of affairs in Iraq to his majesty. His Majesty King Husayn reiterated his invitation to party leader Mas'ud Barzani to visit him.

The meeting was held in a positive and cordial atmosphere. At the end of the meeting, his majesty the king asked the party representatives to convey his greetings and respect to the party leader and to communicate to him his majesty's eagerness to maintain relations and consultations.

Jordan: Opposition's Rejection of Iraqi Defectors Caused Return

JN0203130596 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 96 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—An Iraqi army officer who defected to Jordan last year along with Husayn Kamil, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, has said that rejection by Iraqi opposition groups was the reason that prompted Husayn Kamil to return home.

Husayn Kamil, his brother Saddam Kamil and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam, returned to Iraq on 20 February after a six-month exile in Jordan under a pardon given by the Iraqi leadership. Three days later, the two brothers were killed, along with another brother and their father, in what the Iraqi official media described as an act by the family to clear its name tarnished by the defection.

'Izz-al-Din al-Majid, a brother in law of Husayn Kamil, in an interview with the American Broadcasting Corporation on 28 February, said:

"Husayn Kamil was dreaming of a stable, secure Iraq where the freedom and liberty for all citizens are guaranteed for all and where democracy and multi-party system are available for all to enable Iraq to live with its neighbours, irrespective of whether they are Arabs or non-Arabs, in harmony and peace. But unfortunately he was rejected by the opposition, and this is precisely what made him decide to go back to Baghdad," Mr. al-Majid, who was a major in the Iraqi army, added that Husayn Kamil called upon the opposition groups to come to Jordan and enter a dialogue with him on the future of Iraq," but these groups do not have the will to decide what is good for them. They are compelled to follow the orders of every country that hosts them," and according to the interests of this or that country, said Mr. al-Majid.

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Mr. al-Majid, who declined to return along with Husayn Kamil, said Iraq was on the verge of collapse. He urged the world community to interfere to end the Iraqi people's suffering.

"Iraq is on the verge of collapse," he said. "If the situation in Iraq continues as it is now Iraq would explode at any moment because the regime is bloodthirsty and everywhere in Iraq, people are hungry. Those who are sick find no way to treat themselves. We find robbery and crime everywhere in Iraq. All these are signs of the (impending) explosion in Iraq."

The major, who was interviewed in Amman, said he had warned Husayn Kamil not to trust the Iraqi pardon and not to go back.

"I advised him and his brothers but Husayn Kamil insisted that the president would pardon them and forget everything," Mr. al-Majid said. "In the beginning they were convinced of what I said but it was their destiny that they changed their mind and decided to go. The Almighty God's wish was to unveil the reality of the regime before the world so if anybody thinks of trusting this regime should see Husayn Kamil's story," Mr. al-Majid said.

Mr. al-Majid accused Iraqi opposition groups of inaccurate reports to the media and misguiding the Iraqi people and the world over what was happening inside Iraq. He said these groups were exaggerating and giving false information.

"Unfortunately, the Iraqi opposition, is not accurate. They lost their credibility before the world and before their people inside Iraq." I advised them to be cautious in spreading such news, like the rumours about an alleged revolt near Abu Gharib prison last year. It was baseless information and without any foundation. The opposition said that there were massacres in Abu Gharib. These lies made the Iraqi people lose their confidence in these groups.

Mr. al-Majid praised His Majesty King Husayn for the treatment and hospitality he accorded to Husayn Kamil and his brother while they were in Jordan. He said the King, despite his preoccupation, used to visit them frequently and make sure that all their needs were met.

"I am unable to describe our gratitude for His Majesty's hospitality that we received during our stay in Amman," he said. "In my opinion, there is no safe haven or shelter where Iraqis, whether individuals or groups, can work freely and without any interference better than Jordan. I don't want to talk about neighbouring countries, but Jordan is the best place for the Iraqi opposition to operate," he added.

Mr. al-Majid said the continuous harassment by the regime of the Iraqi people and the Baghdad government's intention to hide information from the U.N. had prompted Husayn Kamil to flee his country and send a message to President Saddam to change the conditions in Iraq.

"The whole world knows that the regime in Baghdad used to hide information from the U.N. This led to prolonging the U.N. sanctions. The sanctions deprived Iraq what it lost during the (Gulf) war. For these reasons we decided to leave Baghdad and to come to Jordan at least to send a message to President Saddam Husayn to make him review his policy and minimise the suffering of Iraqi people. But unfortunately the regime started lashing at us with all kinds of accusations," Mr. al-Majid added.

He said that after their defection, President Saddam sent Husayn Kamil's cousin, 'Ali Hassan al-Majid, a former Interior Minister, and President Saddam's Eldest Son, 'Uday, to convince the Kamil brother to return. "They met with His Majesty the King, but we did not meet with the delegation," he added.

He said that four days later, President Saddam sent Haji 'Abid 'Ali, an elderly member of Al-Majid family, to try to convince Husayn Kamil and his brother to return to Baghdad. "We told him about the reasons behind our defection and asked him to convey our message to these demands to the president to help end the suffering of the Iraqi people. Following this encounter we received no message or delegation from Iraq."

Mr. al-Majid thanked the King and the Jordanian people "for the hospitality they extended to us."

"I want to call upon the world to do something to help the Iraqi people," he said. "The world should not stand with folded hands and watch the catastrophe of the Iraqi people. How long will the Iraqi people continue to suffer?"

Jordan: Iraq Ratifies 'Commercial Protocol Agreement' With Amman

JN0203112596 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Mar 96 p 27

[Report by Khalid al-Zubaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Government ratified the commercial protocol agreement concluded with Jordan with a ceiling of $220 million. AL-RA'Y learned that the competent Iraqi authorities will contact Jordanian exporters to reach an agreement on the details regarding the 1996 Jordanian shipments to be exported to the Iraqi market.

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According to well-informed sources, the Iraqi commercial authorities give priority to certain basic commodities, most prominent are vegetable oils, medicine, soap, detergents, and chlorine.

Informed sources said that Iraqi oil exports are flowing continuously and at full capacity into the tanks of the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery located in the city of al-Zarqa'. These exports include crude oil, gas, lubricating oil, and other oil derivatives which were agreed upon earlier.

Early this year, Jordan and Iraq agreed to increase Iraqi oil exports by five percent of last year's exports to meet the increase in the local oil demand. Currently, Iraqi oil exports to Jordan amount to 73,000-75,000 barrels per day, 11,000 tonnes of which are crude oil, while the remainder are oil derivatives.

An industrial delegation led by Khaldun Abu-Hassan [head of the Amman chamber of industry], and heads of the main Jordanian industrial sectors concluded a successful visit to Baghdad in mid February. They discussed the mechanisms of activating trade and industrial exchange between the two countries.

Jordan: Prince Hasan Phones 'Arafat, Voices Support

JN0303135696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, phoned Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, and expressed his support and that of the Jordanian people for the Palestinian people's efforts toward preserving their historic achievements.

His highness expressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and their leadership in the peace process, and for its continuation. His highness inquired about the conditions of the kinsfolk and emphasized the continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian Arab people, as it has always been.

'Arafat hailed the Jordanian position, and expressed thanks and appreciation for the continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian Arab people.

Jordan: Human Rights Group Criticizes 'Increasing Violations'

LD0303114296 London BBC World Service in English 1628 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A human rights group in Jordan has strongly criticized the government for what it says are increasing violations of human rights. In a report covering 1995, the Arab Organization for Human Rights says there was increasing use of force by the authorities against civilians, as well as a resort to legislation which, the group says, could infringe democratic freedoms. From Amman, Kumar Malhotra sent this report:

[Malhotra] The Arab Organization for Human Rights in Jordan — an independent body — says last year witnessed a sharp rise in abuses. In its annual report, it says the authorities showed a greater readiness to resort to force and mentions two incidents when police shot dead men wanted for questioning. According to the group, the government also increasingly turned to legislation which could infringe human rights — it mentions plans announced last year to restrict freedom of the press and curb the power of trades unions. The report says economic discontent, combined with unease over peace with Israel, led to a rise in political opposition. At the same time, it says the authorities became intolerant of criticism. The group refers to the case of Layth Shubaylat, the head of the engineers union, who is on trial for attacking King Husayn for his closeness to Israel.

In the past few years, Jordanians have enjoyed freedoms often denied in other Arab countries, but the drive to normalize ties with Israel and the change of policy over Iraq have put the democratic experiment under increasing strain. There are hopes that the new government appointed last month may improve the situation. The prime minister recently apologized for an incident under the previous government when two deputies were beaten up by the police. But most observers are waiting to see if the new administration will match its words with deeds.

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Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Promises Punishment for 'Israeli Crimes'

NC0303080096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist entity today had a rendezvous with a martyrdom-seeking fighter, who deprived the Zionists of sleep. The nightmare of last Sunday [25 February] recurred today, reminding the Zionists of their bleak and black future. The Israeli crimes will not go unpunished. Yayha 'Ayyash and Fathi al-Shiqaqi painted with their blood the future of Oslo. 'Arafat will not turn back the clock, and his spider web authority is in the gusty wind. The fire of the intifadah will consume his authority with ease.

'Arafat's big prison in the Gaza Strip and West Bank has rebelled against its jailer. What happened is a pledge of loyalty to the blood of martyrs who have fallen since 1948.

Lebanon: Nabih Birri Urges 'National Day of General Closure' 14 Mar

NC0403115896 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has urged that 14 March be declared a national day of general closure all over the country to protest the continuing Israeli crimes against Lebanon and the continued detention of over 250 Lebanese citizens.

Birri held a news conference in al-Najmah Square [Chamber of Deputies headquarters]. The news conference ended a short while ago.

Lebanon: French Minister—Security Situation 'Stable'

MM0103163896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 96 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim 'Awad in Beirut: "French Defense Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Do Not Share the Americans' View That Lebanon Is 'Dangerous' for Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Beirut yesterday following a 36-hour official visit there, French Defense Minister Charles Millon said that he stressed to the Lebanese officials "that France is keen to do everything to boost relations between the two countries." Millon remarked on the state of readiness achieved by the Lebanese Army, describing it as "one of the key instruments for safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty, security, and independence." When he was told that the U.S. Administration does not share his views, believing instead that the Lebanese Government is totally incapable of ensuring security on its territory — hence the continuation of the ban on U.S. travel to Lebanon — the French minister said: "My presence here is the best proof that the security situation in this country is stable, and I do not share the U.S. view."

In a statement yesterday to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the fringes of his visit to Beirut, the minister said that what he has witnessed over the last 24 hours in Lebanon with regard to the Lebanese Army's being entrusted with enforcing security and the decision to impose a curfew "is purely an internal Lebanese matter," refusing to comment on it and stressing that despite the situation, he had been warmly received by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Defense Minister Muhsin Dalloul, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Chief of Staff Emile Lahhud, whom he met separately.

Millon reiterated his country's readiness to participate in a multinational force in southern Lebanon to guarantee stability on the borders between Lebanon and Israel when a peace agreement is reached between them and if there is the desire for the EU and the sides concerned to perform this task.

On his expectations of such an agreement being reached, Millon expressed his hope that it would be "as soon as possible."

After his meeting with Lebanese officials, the French minister stated that there is a technical cooperation agreement between the two countries to repair some military equipment that Lebanon had previously bought from France, including some Mirage aircraft and some helicopters. He said: "We will do a technical survey of every piece of equipment, and based on this survey, France will repair the equipment to enable the Lebanese Army to use it."

Millon stressed France's heightened interest in the training of Lebanese Army cadres, saying: "France trains 74 Lebanese officers each year and is prepared to increase this number to 90 officers." He said that, during his stay in Lebanon, he had discussed preparations for French President Jacques Chirac's visit to Beirut in April.

Lebanon: Government Deems Articles Offensive, Sues 2 Papers

NC0203211296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Judge Fawzi Abu-Murad, the public appeals prosecutor in Beirut, today sued NIDA'

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AL-WATAN newspaper for publishing an article offending one of the recognized religions in the country, creating sectarian seditions, and breaching public peace. In the case, the suit is against manager Ilyas Shahin, the author Rony Alpha, and Henry Sfayr, NIDA' AL-WATAN Company owner. The suit was filed under Article 5 of Law 330/94 and Article 26 of Legislative Decree 104/77.

Judge Abu-Murad also sued AL-DIYAR newspaper, its manager Yusuf al-Huwayk, al-Nahdah company owner and chief editor Charles Ayyub, for publishing an article that abused, insulted, and slandered the president of the Republic and the prime minister. The suit was filed under Articles 22, 23, 24, and 26 of Legislative Decree 104/77. According to this decree, these acts are punishable by two months to two years in prison and a fine ranging between 50 and 100 million pounds.

Under Law 330/94, the punishment is three months to three years in prison, a fine of between 50 million to 100 million pounds, or one of the two, provided that the prison term is not shorter than two months. Judge Abu-Murad referred the suit to First Investigating Judge Sa'id Mirza, who set Tuesday [5 March] as the date for the defendants to appear in court.

Lebanon: Poll Shows 12% of Public Support Government

NC0303173496

[FBIS Report] Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic on 18 February publishes on page 1 a brief report on results of an opinion poll it conducted to measure the popularity of Rafiq al-Hariri's government among the Lebanese public. According to the newspaper, 4,594 citizens in the various Lebanese regions were asked if they support or oppose the government. The results of the poll are given as follows: 12.73 percent of the respondents said they support al-Hariri's government; 59.59 percent said they oppose the government, and 27.68 percent said they have no opinion. The newspaper breaks down the results in the various governorates as follows:

	Jabal Lubnan	Bayrut	Al-Shamal	Al-Janub	Al-Biqa'
Supporters	8.73%	13.84%	15.44%	12.54%	14.74%
Opponents	58.35%	47.15%	62.83%	69.32%	63.86%
No Opinion	32.92%	39.01%	21.73%	18.14%	21.40%

The newspaper gives no further information about the sample it polled.

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Syria: Newspaper 'Surprised' by U.S. Charges of Terrorism

JN0203095296 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 2 Mar (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH said it is surprised by the recent decision by the U.S. State Department to place Syria on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism in an attempt to blackmail it.

The paper wonders: Is there not a very sharp, logical paradox here, for which we cannot find a rational political explanation? The only explanation is that there is a desire to meet the conditions of Israel, which feels that such a classification of Syria may now serve as a means to extort and pressure it and place it face to face with the Israel conditions and then force it to back down and abandon some of its national or pan-Arab rights or bargain over some of its constants in the peace process.

In an editorial written by its chief editor, 'Amid Khuli, AL-THAWRAH says: This sharp paradox which we noted, and which is both logical and objective, is directly related to the singularity of administration and decisionmaking in the United States. In other words, how can Syria be a terrorist state and a state that sponsors terrorism, while at the same time it is a key country without which peace cannot be achieved, and which is, according to U.S. statements, the key to comprehensive peace in the region. They themselves say that peace with Syria means peace with 22 Arab states, and that if peace is achieved with them all, but not with Syria, then there will be no peace.

AL-THAWRAH says: This is the sharp paradox which we pointed out. The paper says: How can one understand two completely contradictory positions, one by the presidency and the president and the other the State Department, when each party is viewing the matter from a completely different viewpoint? How can there be no coordination over an issue with important international dimensions such as this one? Does this issue not show the lack of common standards, according to which a classification can be made, and, hence, those who are making the classification do not agree on how to classify people, and use this case as a means of extortion and pressure to promote certain positions and policies. This is probably what is happening now.

The paper says: It is really surprising that the United States pressures Syria for the benefit of Israel, the occupying power which rejects peace. Instead, the United States should pressure Israel, which occupies territory, usurps rights, and rejects the U.S. initiative.

The paper notes the statement by President al-Asad in which he said: We oppose terrorism when it means crime. We cannot accept the definition of terrorism to mean that one cannot defend his occupied territory. We call the criminal a terrorist, but we cannot call the citizen who defends his homeland a terrorist. Some people use glamorous slogans, such as democracy, human rights, and liberties to extort others and pressure them. Syria cannot be subjugated by the word terrorism, nor can it be intimidated by charges of terrorism.

The paper adds: These words by President al-Asad accurately depicted what is currently taking place. They use these big slogans for blackmail and pressure, and to subjugate others. It appears that they raise the issue whenever they need to do so. The best time for raising this issue, they seem to believe, is the eve of the Maryland talks. The aim is to enable Israel to use this as an instrument of blackmail at the negotiating table.

The paper goes on to say: Glamorous slogans are thus being used in an attempt to influence our national decisionmaking and free will. Turkey is allowed to use this slogan from time to time to pressure Syria. Turkey has used this slogan as a bargaining chip to pressure Syria into acquiescence over its legitimate right to the Euphrates waters.

AL-THAWRAH says: The escalation of Turkey's anti-Syria rhetoric is meant to serve as a smokescreen to obscure its intractable and multifaceted domestic crisis. In politics, this is called exporting domestic crises. Turkey is creating a crisis with Syria to conceal its domestic problems. Turkey's alleged external conflicts are meant to defuse stifling internal crises.

The paper adds: There is no quarrel with Syria over the so- called terrorism or the sheltering of terrorists. Syria has informed the Turks several times that the problem is at their end, not ours. Syria has also informed the Turks that they have to seek a solution to their problem with their people and political forces, and not with Syria.

The paper goes on to say: Syria is seriously seeking good neighborly relations with Turkey. Likewise, it is seeking legitimate international and regional solutions to the problem of water-sharing with Turkey in accordance with international law and the norms in force regarding the sharing of waters by riparian countries. International law stipulates that there has to be a sharing of waters in accordance with well-known conditions to be agreed upon by the parties concerned.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The charges of terrorism should not become an excuse to obscure facts or indict Syria. Similarly, it is a big mistake to use the charges of terrorism to pressure and blackmail and to

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beleaguer Syria from the north. All this would promote Israel's interest and its occupation of Arab territories, and encourage it to go to excess in its intransigence and anti-peace stand.

Syria: Minister Salman Blames Israeli Attitude for Bus Bombing

NC0303171296 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, March 3 (AFP) — Israel's unjust terms for peace with its Arab neighbours are at the root of the tension behind Sunday's [3 March] bus bombing in Jerusalem, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said.

"The state of tension will be maintained in the region because of the unjust accords," he said. "Israel's evasiveness is behind the instability and serves to strengthen the camp of the opponents" of peace.

The minister, referring to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Organization] suicide bombing which killed at least 19 people, said the Israeli-Arab accords to date "have not led to peace." It would be impossible to achieve if Israel stuck to its conditions, he warned.

Salman said that his country would offer no concessions at its peace negotiations with Israel, due to resume on Monday at the Wye Plantation outside Washington.

Hardline Palestinian groups based in Damascus also pointed the finger of blame at the policies of Israel itself.

"Israeli leaders must learn their lesson and understand that stepping up repression...and depriving the Palestinians of their rights can only lead to violence," said the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Its spokesman Dawud Talhami said the Palestinian autonomy accords were "partial and unbalanced, and they have assured neither security nor peace."

Fahd Qudsi, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said attacks such as the Jerusalem bombing were only to be expected because "the solution to the Palestinian question as imposed by Israel is unfair."

Syria: Minister on Peace Talks, Relations With Turkey

JN0303184096 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA) — Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman emphasized that the tense situation in the region will continue unless agreements that entrench justice and realize security, satisfaction, and sovereignty for the region's countries are concluded — not agreements that entrench the current default.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS published on 2 March, he said the current Israeli state of hesitation has caused tension in the region and has increased the rejectionist trend compared with two years ago. He said the recent operations in Jerusalem and Ashqelon emphasize what we have been saying.

The minister said: What has happened in the region within the framework of the peace process did not realize peace and will not do so. He stressed that peace in accordance with Israel's conditions will be impossible.

Salman said people who describe the Syrian position as diplomatically difficult are not aware of the reality of this region or the reality of being an Arab. In fact, if we took an easier position, it would mean that we have offered concessions, as the others have done. This is completely out of the question. Therefore, we stick to our rights, and these rights are supported by resolutions of the international legitimacy. The Arab citizens look to Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad as their representatives at these junctures, the seriousness of which is known by all. President al-Asad has fully mastered the art of linking history and the future. History cannot bear mistakes, nor can the future. President al-Asad has decided to build peace for the generations. Peace should either be like this or not at all.

He said: The Syrian leadership is not only committed to the Syrian people, but to the Arab citizens. We are eager to maintain this commitment. We are difficult, yes, because we are sticking to our rights.

Regarding the U.S. role in the peace process, the information minister said: The U.S. Administration is serious about the peace process. The U.S. role is not over. It still exists and is continuing. Secretary Warren Christopher spoke about this when he was asked: Why are you not interfering? He replied that it is not yet time.

About the Israeli elections and the chances of success for Labor or Likud, Salman said: What counts is that the results should serve the peace process and that peace should be the focus of the Israeli elections in a way that will determine public opinion trends in Israel. He noted that Syria is not a vote in anyone's box, and it is only interested in achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

On rumors of change in Iraq, Salman said: I do not know on what facts those who are saying change in Iraq is imminent are basing their claims. The issue is much

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more sensitive and complicated than they believe. This is because any change that takes place through foreign interference falls within the Israeli framework, which is no longer a secret. This would inevitably lead to the partitioning of Iraq.

On tension in relations with Turkey, the information minister said: We were exposed to several campaigns. However, we did not reply to Turkish officials or media. Ankara is suffering from political problems and facing serious economic difficulties, in addition to escalating ethnic tensions. Since the current regime cannot confront or tackle these crises, it is blaming neighboring states.

Salman added: As neighbors, we hope that Turkey will achieve stability so that we can talk with it away from the internal problems that are pressing on the regime. I believe that Ankara should be more rational, especially since we realize the bitter and even the catastrophic results such negativeness has had on development in the region.

Regarding the issue of security understanding between the two countries and the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], the information minister said: We have an understanding. We do not support the PKK, and Syria is not responsible for protecting Turkish borders. We believe that the internal situation in Turkey is influencing the official stand. At any rate, we are waiting for the formation of the new Turkish government in order to talk with it in a responsible manner. As neighbors, we are eager to resolve these problems in a fraternal and neighborly way.

Syria: Sources Cited on 'Lack of Progress' in Talks With Israel

JN0303173096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the resumption of the Wye Plantation talks, well-informed Syrian sources have emphasized that the previous round of talks did not realize anything worth mentioning. The sources voice the opinion that the talks will continue to be bogged down until the results of the Israeli elections are announced.

The sources wondered: How can we hope for a breakthrough when the Israeli Government is afraid to tackle serious issues, such as the Golan withdrawal, which in Syria's view is the bottom line of any future solution, while Israel believes it will affect the results of their elections?

The sources said that President al-Asad recently confirmed the lack of progress. Syria, the sources said, does not want to give false impressions or hide any facts, because hiding facts means offering concessions, something that has not happened and will never happen in the future, regardless of the pressures.

Syria: Press Criticizes Israel Over Peace Talks Stalemate

JN0203083096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN asserts that just peace is the catalyst for security in the region. The paper adds: Had Israel met the requirements of just and comprehensive peace from the outset, subscribed to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and accepted the Syrian premise, which offered peace in exchange for the restoration of all occupied Arab territories, security and stability by now would have become firm realities in the region. But Israel instead has pursued the policy of divide-and-rule, sought to achieve partial solutions, and aimed to strike at inter-Arab coordination. Consequently, it dragged the Palestinians to the Oslo accord. Despite all that has been said about this accord, current realities show its failure to bring peace. This is exactly what Syria expected, because peace has its own requirements and prerequisites. Peace must secure the Arabs' legitimate rights and demands. Likewise, it must eliminate occupation and remove all manifestations of injustice, repression, threats, and dangers.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The current situation in the occupied territories is caused by the absence of real peace and justice, and the perpetuation of the state of repression, injustice, and tyrannical rule. All the security barriers Israel has erected and all forms of military deployment it has carried out have failed to bring security. It is only just and comprehensive peace which can achieve security. Israeli rulers must use the ongoing Maryland talks to achieve real peace, particularly since Syria has responded honestly and responsibly to the requirements of peace. It has proven by word and deed its desire for peace as well as its unmistakable pursuit of peace.

TISHRIN adds: A public statement by Israel expressing its willingness to effect complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders, implement the relevant international legitimacy resolutions in full, and remove all manifestations of occupation can help promote the peace process, rectify its course, and confront the enemies of peace in the ranks

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of the Zionist right wing and expose their venomous rhetoric.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The entire world expects a real change of heart by Israel in the direction of genuine peace. Israel is required to return the occupied territories to their lawful owners and recognize Palestinian rights to ensure the attainment of a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This requires peace advocates in Israel, if they are true to their word, to confront the Israeli public with the hard facts regarding the requirements of peace. They are required to call a spade a spade and inform the public of the real reasons behind the stumbling of the peace process. They should not hide behind security pretexts that have failed to produce any benefits now and in the past.

In a commentary under the headline "Syrian Constants," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the ongoing Maryland talks, saying: All parties, chief among which are the U.S. sponsor and the EU, are well aware that the failure of the peace process to make the slightest progress toward a just and comprehensive solution to the regional conflict is due to Israel's constant intransigence and failure to subscribe to the bases and terms of reference of this process, especially complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel has used each and every possible excuse to hamper progress in the peace talks. Early elections were used to evade the requirements of just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria adheres to the peace process. It is keen on its continuation. It has responded favorably to all peace efforts, especially those made by the United States, to advance the peace process and help achieve just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the Syrian stands. The Syrian stands are grounded in the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions which must ensure complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders and from all occupied Lebanese territories and result in the institution of parallel [mutawaziyah], balanced [mutawazinah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides of the borders.

Syria: Papers Critical of Israeli Likud Leader's Statements

JN0303125196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Mar 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the peace process and the alliances struck in Israel among the religious and right-wing parties. The paper also discusses the statements made by officials of these parties.

The paper says: The tendency of these forces is to undermine the peace process and to adhere to positions and practices that are hostile to peace. The paper notes the statements by Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu that reveal that the policy which the right-wing and religious parties seek to pursue runs counter to the basic elements and principles of the just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN says: These arguments are not only far from peace, they also have no connection whatsoever to the objectives of peace. These arguments are rejected and denounced because they mean aggression. They also contradict all the calls and efforts seeking to achieve a peace that is based on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

The paper adds: The Likud Party is combining contradictory issues with this election oneupmanship. What kind of peace is this which is advocated by the Likud and the religious and right-wing parties when it is based on holding on to the Arab territory, a return to the peace-for-peace formula, and undermining the land-for-peace formula?

TISHRIN also wonders: What kind of peace is this which would allow Israel to achieve all the aggressive and hostile designs it wishes to achieve at the expense of Arab rights and the will of international legitimacy?

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The result of the Israeli elections will show the extent of Israel's credibility about its commitment, in word and deed, to the prerequisites of the peace process to achieve the just and comprehensive peace and its requirements.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: In all cases, the Israeli officials' provocative statements, which reflect rejection, intransigence, and stubbornness, should not go without being questioned. This is especially the case since they are still, even superficially, participants in the peace process and talks within the framework of the U.S. efforts. This means that they have a commitment to respond favorably to, and abide by the Madrid

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Conference terms of reference and to the application of its main points. They also have a moral commitment to peace and to avoiding all the complications that would place obstacles and explosive mines on the path of peace.

The paper says: The new round of talks in Maryland, which was adjourned until Monday, has not yielded anything new that would serve the interest of peace on the Syrian track. Israel and its negotiators do not have anything new to achieve the required breakthrough and end the stalemate in the peace process.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The Syrian desire and will to achieve peace, and Syria's adherence to its comprehensive and just nature, must meet a similar Israeli desire and a practical response that will translate into action the land- for-peace formula. Israel must also implement, sincerely and precisely, the resolutions of international legitimacy and make a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Otherwise, peace cannot be achieved and peace cannot endure.

Syria: Radio Says Peace Will Help 'Calm' Regional Situation

JN0103163596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Mar 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: It is obvious that the extremist Israeli right wing is exploiting the recent bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon in order to harm the peace process and mobilize the Zionist antipeace forces, although the absence of just peace is the main reason behind these bombings. The Oslo accord has not achieved the minimum rights of the Palestinian people or their aspirations for freedom, independence, and self-determination. On the contrary, this accord has spread a sense of frustration among the Arab citizens, particularly youths.

There is no doubt that Israel's handling of the peace process based on partial and incomplete concepts and unilateral agreements explains, to a great extent, why the peace process has stumbled and failed to deal with current changes and events. Since the convening of the Madrid conference, Syria has proposed a comprehensive peace in the region based on the integration of all tracks. At that time, Syria urged the Arab parties to achieve coordination, which continued for a while before being undermined by the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements.

We do not say this for malicious joy or to slander anyone, but to stress that just and comprehensive peace can form a basis for security and stability in the region and that any agreement supported by all the Arab forces and people can last to produce security, safety, and peace of mind. Israel can set matters right by meeting the requirements of just and comprehensive peace, as well as the UN Security Council's resolutions, beginning on the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks. Nobody, except the antipeace groups, can cast doubts on Syria's sincere intentions and genuine attempt to achieve a just and stable peace.

Syria has been holding talks for more than four years now and is providing more and more evidence of its honesty. It is time, therefore, for Israel to completely respond to the conditions and requirements of peace and put an end to its baseless security concerns. All past events have proved that security barriers do not bring security, and that only a just peace that restores rights will guarantee security.

Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and the achievement of peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will help, to a great extent, calm down the region and pave the way for correcting the peace process on the Palestinian track. The call of the extremist Zionist right wing in Israel for resuming a large-scale policy of oppression, annexing territories, and expelling the Arabs from their homes amounts to a war against peace and is aimed at undermining all international efforts. Moreover, it will return the region to square one, that is, to tension and explosion.

Of course, the proposals of the extremist right wing can be confronted by exposing their dimensions, stressing the benefits of peace, and persistently moving toward peace. Israel can prove its belief in and desire for peace by meeting the peace requirements of the Syrian track, on which a new round of talks is being held in Maryland under the supervision and participation of the United States. It is known that Syria has not set any condition for achieving peace other than Israel's total withdrawal, as well as the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions.

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Syria: Damascus, Tehran Back Iraqi Opposition Meeting

MM0103124396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Mar 96 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus: "Damascus and Tehran Back Broadened Meeting of Iraqi Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, his Syrian counterpart 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and senior officials in Damascus ended with both sides announcing "an identity of views" on the issues discussed, notably the situation in Iraq. The two sides have expressed to the Iraqi opposition forces their support for a "broadened meeting" of all [Iraqi] opposition forces, including the Kurdistan Democratic Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani.

AL-HAYAH has learned that a delegation of the party's political bureau headed by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman arrived in Damascus yesterday.

Habibi and Khaddam chaired the last session of the Higher Syrian-Iranian Committee meetings, which ended in Damascus yesterday. On the Syrian side it was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan, and on the Iranian side by Hasan Akhtari, ambassador to Syria, and Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam instead of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who left Damascus to start a tour of Central Asia.

Official sources said the talks addressed "all aspects of the regional situation, relations between the two friendly countries, and ways to boost them. There was an identity of views on all the issues raised."

With regard to bilateral relations and developments in the peace talks on the Syrian track, the talks conducted by the Iranian delegation in Syria focused on Iraqi affairs and the Palestinian-Israeli track, after the Iranian officials met with leaders of the Palestinian opposition, Hizballah, the Islamic Amal Movement, and Iraqi opposition leaders.

Informed sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Habibi met with representatives of the Islamic and National Action Coordination Committee and Bayan Jabr, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim), while Mohammad Aqamohamedi, Iranian national security official in charge of Iraqi affairs, met with Major General Wafiq al-Samara'i', former Iraqi military intelligence deputy director, and oppositionist Mish'an al-Juburi, the Homeland Party leader, after Khaddam met with them the day before yesterday. The sources added that the meetings ended with Syria and Iran "expressing support for a broadened meeting of the Iraqi opposition in Damascus during the second half of March 1996."

Al-Juburi told AL-HAYAH that the high-level Iranian security official had reaffirmed to him "his country's support for the opposition meeting in Damascus, with a view to activating civilian action in the Iraqi arena and finding a mechanism to topple the Iraqi regime."

He said that the Iranian official supports his approach, pointing out that he has invited him to visit Tehran, which he has agreed to do in a few days' time "in the company of a military delegation to include the party's military wing, led by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Aziz Sultan." He added that, in his meetings with the Iranian officials, he will discuss "coordination on the ground with the Badr Forces in northern and southern Iraq, and that the forces should not be along sectarian lines. I shall meet with Hakim in preparation for the opposition meeting in Damascus."

After meeting with the Iranian vice president, Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, the Coordination Committee's foreign affairs official, told AL-HAYAH: "I believe that he (Habibi) is enthusiastic for the cause of Iraq, and that relations between Syria, Iran, and the Iraqi opposition are at their best." He stressed all three sides' agreement on the opposition meeting, adding that "the date, place, and number of participants has not been decided. We agree with the Islamists that the meeting should include all the nationalist, Islamist, Kurdish, and democratic currents, and that it should assert the following constants: to topple Saddam Husayn's regime, to respect political pluralism and Iraq's unity as a country and a people, and to reject any foreign project, such as King Husayn's project, aiming at establishing a federation between Jordan and Iraq."

He said that Habibi had informed the Iraqi oppositionists of "the need for accord after Saddam is toppled, so that Iraq does not suffer from the same conflicts as Afghanistan."

Al-Juburi quoted Khaddam as saying that "the Iraq issue is one of the issues that concern Syria's national security and a priority as far as Syria's security is concerned." He pointed out that there is a Syrian-Iranian agreement to hold a meeting in Damascus, stressing that both sides want "some 40 figures representing the main Iraqi opposition forces to attend." He added that he also held meetings with "security officials" and that Damascus has agreed to the opening of a Homeland Party office in Syria.

On the opening of the Syrian-Iraqi borders, closed since 1980, al-Juburi said he made this proposal to Syria

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three months ago, explaining that the proposal includes "opening the borders to the ordinary Iraqi citizen and official to enable him to use Syrian territory, ports, and airports to leave and enter Iraq, as is the case with Jordan, and that this would make it easier for food aid to enter [Iraq] in accordance with the [UN] Security Council resolutions." He added: "After my meeting with Khaddam, my impression is that the entry and exit of Iraqis (via the common borders) has become very likely," and he warned that, during the meeting attended by al-Samara'i, it was stressed that "the issue is being examined within the context of the Security Council resolutions, and that it should not be misinterpreted by the region's states."

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Departs for 'Friendly' Visit to Iran

LD0303155996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left for Iran for a friendly visit at the invitation of esteemed Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this afternoon. BAKHTAR reports that Professor Rabbani was seen off by a number of ministers, generals, and senior officers of the Armed Forces, senior state officials, heads of department, and some Kabul University teachers.

Afghanistan: Pakistan Accused of Sending Taleban To Overthrow Kabul

LD0303154096 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, March 3, Irna — Afghanistan's top military commander and member of the government's Supreme Council Ahmad Shah Mas'ud once again accused Pakistan of trying to perpetuate civil war in his country.

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday [3 March], he maintained that Pakistan sends in Taleban forces after giving them military training to overthrow the Kabul governemnt and pave the trade route to central Asia.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was also quoted by the print media here as saying that Islamabad is engaged in certain programs in Taleban-held regions including setting up of trade centers and telecommunication systems.

The remarks came while some Afghan officials have recently expressed willingness to improve ties with Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Government has announced its readiness to repair the Pakistani Embassy, ravaged last September by angry demonstrators, and provide a new building for the embassy.

Pakistan has repeatedly been accused of meddling in Afghanistan affairs and supporting the Taleban, a charge which has been denied by Islamabad.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rockets Hit Kabul; 2 Houses Damaged

LD0103175996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban last night fired eight rockets on Kabul city last night as a result of which two residential homes were damaged. According to a BAKHTAR report, eight rockets hit the residential areas of Kabul city last night; fortunately, they did not cause any loss of life. However, two residential homes were damaged.

Afghanistan: Taleban Continues Rocket Assault Against Kabul

LD0203162496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The firing of heavy weapons and rockets into the Afghan capital of Kabul is continuing. According to a report by the Central News Unit, at least three people were killed and more than six others injured when nine Katyusha rockets hit the central part of Kabul City today. The rockets and shells also damaged a number of houses. Some rockets landed in Wazir Akbar Khan Mena where most foreign offices and news agencies are based. The Afghan Defense Ministry accused the Taleban of firing today's rockets because the rockets were fired from the south of Kabul where the Taleban are entrenched.

Dear listeners, we invite you to listen to a report by our correspondent from Peshawar on the Afghan situation.

[Correspondent] Some reports from Afghanistan say that the Taleban intend to capture the eastern Afghan provinces. The reports add that by capturing Jalalabad and the Kabul-Jalalabad-Torkham highway, the Taleban, on the one hand, want to increase military and economic pressure on Rabbani's government, and on the other hand, to have its importance acknowledged by other countries on the international scene. It is said that the Taleban are of the opinion that capturing further areas will increase the pressure on Rabbani's government and that they will also enhance their position in determining the fate of Afghanistan by capturing Jalalabad, where several aid agencies and international missions are based. On the other hand, reports doubt that the Taleban will easily capture the eastern provinces, especially Jalalabad City, because the Nangarhar Province Council's member parties have also made preparations to counter a Taleban attack and have started efforts to solve differences among the member parties and to form a joint front against a Taleban attack. This is at a time when the government has put forward proposals on power-sharing with all parties, including Nangarhar Jehadi Council. Talks with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami have progressed very well, increasing the possibility that a permanent agreement can be reached. A session of the High Coordination Council's representatives will be held tomorrow to discuss the outcome of the past days' talks between the government representatives and Hekmatyar in Sarobi. Hezb-e Eslami's representative will present to the session a report on the talks and will try

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to secure the agreement of other parties in the High Coordination Council.

Afghanistan: Government-Held Villages Reported Captured in Samangan

LD0203182196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The villages of (Panjqaria), Madraseh, and Zeraki, in Darrah-ye Suf, have been cleared of government soldiers. A Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] military source reported to us by radio that last Wednesday [28 February], the High Coordination Council mounted a series of heroic operations against government forces in the Darrah-i Suf district in Samangan Province. As a result, the above-mentioned villages were cleared of government forces, and a quantity of various arms and ammunition captured. There have been no reports on casualties.

Afghanistan: Heavy Fighting in North as Factions Vie for Power

BK0303135696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, March 3 (AFP) — Hundreds of civilians are fleeing the key northern Afghan town of Pul-i-Khumri to escape intense fighting between two warring groups in the region, travelers from the area said Sunday.

The Hezb-e-Eslami faction of former Premier Golbodin Hekmatyar have in the past few days advanced to within two kilometers (1.2 miles) of the thriving town, which is a strategic access point between Kabul and the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, they said.

Pul-i-Khumri, an industrial centre set in a picturesque river valley, 148 kilometers (93 miles) north of Kabul, has for years been held by the small but locally powerful Ismaeli Muslim group.

"Pul-i-Khumri could fall at any moment," a traveler told AFP.

"Hundreds of people are moving as quickly as they can towards the south of the town as the Hezb-e-Eslami advance quickly towards them from the north," he said.

"There are heavy rocket and artillery barrages in progress near the town and civilians have been killed in rocket strikes on the outskirts of the city," he added.

The source said he had heard that foreign aid agencies operating in Pul-i-Khumri were making emergency preparations to evacuate the town if fighting spread into its centre.

Sources said the Hezb-e-Eslami had advanced about 30 kilometers (18 miles) south from their base at the town of Baghlan, and had seized the 20th armoured division which had been under the control of Ismaeli leader Sayed Mansoor Naderi.

Conflicts between the patchwork of rival factions who control different parts of Baghlan province — where Pul-i-Khumri is located — has been flaring up sporadically for months.

However, the latest events appear to be the most serious threat in years to the tenuous balance of power in the turbulent area, observers said.

According to accounts from the region, the Hezb-e-Eslami appears to have turned on the Ismaeli sect, many of whom are leaving the area as the fighting approaches their base at Pul-i-Khumri.

Sources said the latest bout of inter-factional battling broke out after a Hezb-e-Eslami commander was murdered last week, although the identity of the killers remains unclear.

Afghanistan: Kabul Under Rocket Attack by Taleban Forces

LD0303160196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired rockets on Kabul today, injuring one person. BAKHTAR reports that the landing and explosion of rockets was heard this morning. No report has been received on the number of rockets. Only one injured person was taken to one of the city's hospitals for treatment.

Afghanistan: 10 Taleban Troops Killed in Clash in Maydan Shar

LD0303192796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of internecine clashes, 10 of the Taleban were killed in the Tangi area in Maydan Shar. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say the clashes took place when a Taleban commander, Sayd Agha, started to disarm the men under another commander, Enzer Gol. [words indistinct] the fighting continued several hours. [words indistinct]

Afghanistan: 'Heavy Fighting' Between Hezb-e Eslami, Dostam Factions

LD0303193796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past week, heavy fighting has been continuing between Hezb-e Eslami

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[Islamic Party] and the forces of 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in Baghlan Province. The clashes started after Haji Nawab, a Hezb-e Eslami commander, was killed by Dostum's men in Baghlan. It is said that a large number of people have been killed or injured on both sides. The motive behind the fighting is still unknown, but heavy fighting has been going on in Khinjan and Baghlan over the past days, in which the belligerent sides have used heavy weapons.

Afghanistan: Commanders in Eastern Provinces To Jointly Resist Taleban

LD0303200996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jehadi commanders based in the capital town of Nangarhar, Jalalabad, said they will jointly resist a probable attack by the Taleban on Jalalabad and other eastern provinces.

According to an IRNA report, Haji 'Abdol Qadir said: The Taleban want to attack Nangarhar and the Provincial Council is determined to continue its resistance. Confirming the council's military movements around Jalalabad, Haji 'Abdol Qadir described the situation as a defensive calm [as heard]. He said: Maintaining neutrality in the Afghan problem over the past four years, the Nangarhar Jehadi Council has been able to restore peace and calm in the east of the country. Recent reports speak of the probability of fighting in Nangarhar Province and of the reinforcement of the Taleban positions in Paktia Province, south of Logar.

Afghanistan: Taleban, People Clash in Herat Over Killing of Youth

LD0303215896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a report this evening Kabul television announced that the beating and killing of a youth by the Taleban group in Herat has provoked the anger of people in that region and they clashed with the Taleban forces. During the clashes at least two members of the Taleban forces were killed.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Zia Makes Proposals for Crisis Resolution

BK0303163996 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1300 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear countrymen: Peace be upon you. This very month in 1971 our dear motherland achieved independence. On the occasion of completion of 25 years after the great independence, I extend my sincere greetings and congratulations. In this context, I recall with great respect the contributions made by late Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, (?Bangabandhu) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Shahid Ziaur Rahman, late General Ataul Ghani Osmani, freedom fighters for the country and [words indistinct] and pray for the salvation of their souls. I first remember the [words indistinct] of the great liberation war. In addition, I express my respect to all others who participated, directly and indirectly, in the great liberation war, and express my sincere sympathy to all those who were maimed, suffered in many ways, and lost their relatives.

Hundreds of thousands of devout Muslims, as in the past, have attended the world congregation of Muslims in our country. Many devout Muslim brothers and sisters from some [word indistinct] countries have also [words indistinct] to our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to all of them. They are praying for the happiness, peace and (?prosperity) of Bangladesh. They are also praying for the well-being of the entire Islamic community in this world and in the world hereafter. I pray to God the Almighty to accept the prayers of all of us.

Dear brothers and sisters, I addressed you three times during the past four months and made some specific statements, and every time I sought your sincere support and cooperation in the interest of the nation and the people. You responded to my call by ignoring all fear and terror. I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to you for risking your lives to participate in the 15 February election. Your cooperation has helped the country's constitutional process and democracy to continue. I thank God Almighty for this. The nation will always remember with respect the sincerity and courage of all officials, employees, various political parties, organizations of professionals, the Army, Navy, Bangladesh Rifles, Police, paramilitary Ansar force, law and order enforcement force, officers [words indistinct]. The success achieved through your united effort has further strengthened democracy and created a condition conducive for resolving the present political problem. I firmly believe that all of us will sincerely strive to make use of this opportunity.

Dear countrymen, you might recall that in my 24 November address to the nation, I explained the background of the current political (?crisis). The proposals we made to resolve the crisis [words indistinct]. I asked the agitating opposition parties to participate in the election to further consolidate democracy in the country. I also called for free and frank talks to discuss steps that could be taken to make the elections [words indistinct].

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Unfortunately, however, they did not respond to my call, and boycotted the elections, and chose the [words indistinct], thus foiling all efforts to arrive at a solution though negotiations.

In my 12 February speech, I told you that national elections would have to be held by 15 February to uphold the Constitution and democracy. As we [words indistinct] in the holy month of Ramadan. In that speech, I said that democracy earned through the sacrifice of the blood of hundreds of martyrs would have to be upheld and constitutional continuity maintained. And to maintain constitutional continuity, we have to hold elections within the specified time. I also told you that day that if we could maintain democracy through elections, only then could we create conditions for another election, and thereby further strengthen democracy in the future. Our efforts in this regard have always been since. And this is why, necessary steps were taken to establish contact with opposition parties.

Dear countrymen, as [words indistinct] and as an elected representative, I am committed to honor my pledges. I believe that I continue to enjoy your active cooperation [words indistinct] in the future as well. To us, the overall (?well-being) of the people is more important than governmental power. We have proved this over the nine long years of the movement against autocratic rule. Making arrangements for holding parliamentary elections in the time specified by the Constitution is yet more proof in this regard.

Dear brothers and sisters, the agitating opposition parties wanted to have a nonelected person as prime minister. However, we always said that we were unable to (?violate) the Constitution. In the interest of understanding, I proposed that I and my government would step down 30 days before elections. On 28 December 1994, I asked them not to resign and to return to the parliament. I proposed that parliament discuss how the government would be run should I resign 30 days before the elections. If they would return to the parliament that day, then we could discuss the structure of the government during the elections. However, they rejected our request. A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the Constitution. Despite this, they resigned en masse. [passage indistinct] They did not even agree to return to the parliament through a by-election and set up [words indistinct] for the elections. It was actually their proposal to set up an advisory council comprising [words indistinct] and headed by the president. However, we even agreed to it if it was consistent with the Constitution. They retreated after we said this.

On several occasions I proposed resolving the problem through (?unconditional) talks, however, [words indistinct]. Consequently, the talks failed, and it was not even possible to amend the Constitution since parliament lacked the necessary number of members to do this.

Dear countrymen, I have said earlier and would like to say now that we wanted to hold general elections with the participation of all political parties and people of the country, and would like to conduct (?such) elections in the future as well. However, with no provision in the Constitution and lacking the adequate number of members in the parliament necessary to amend the Constitution, we could not reach an acceptable agreement.

Following the establishment of the sixth parliament after the 15 February elections, our problem is [words indistinct]. In this situation, we can (?alone) make efforts for a constitutional and real solution to the present problem. As we are sincerely eager to resolve all problems [words indistinct].

Dear brothers and sisters, you will agree that the whole country, nation, and democracy are directly interlinked. All such problems [words indistinct]. This is why comprehensive negotiations with [words indistinct] proposals are necessary. In the national interest, we are ready to accept the solution which will emerge [words indistinct] through this. In this context, I am presenting several proposals to the countrymen and all political parties.

1. Keeping in view the overall interests of the country and people, nonparty governments will be formed during all future national elections. [Words indistinct] will take care of the daily functioning of the government. It will not make any new policy decisions. The Election Commission will have full responsibility and authority to conduct elections.

2. We will move a bill on the preliminary amendment to the Constitution on this issue in the first session of the sixth parliament. Arrangements will be made for passage of the bill by parliament as early as possible and holding a referendum according to the Constitution.

3. Afterwards, steps will be taken to conduct the seventh parliament election within the shortest possible time.

I am making a clarion call to political parties to hold (?frank) talks immediately on these proposals and on related matters. I firmly believe that as a result of this (?effort) all political parties of the country, God willing, will participate in the seventh parliament elections. I believe that all opposition parties, [words indistinct] organizations and the country will wholeheartedly cooperate with us.

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Dear countrymen, our government achieved notable success in implementing various people-oriented programs and developmental activities and in the sphere of overall economic development. We lost much valuable (?time) due to persistent strikes, blockades and other activities by some opposition political parties. Production and development is being hampered, people are being affected, and valuable lives are being lost. (?Strikes) have greatly harmed the educational sphere, impaired (?production) in offices and tarnished the country's image. Domestic and foreign investments have been disrupted. It is a matter of regret that some people at different phases of political movement have taken the law in their hands and have destroyed national assets. People were subjected to spending days in utter (?miserable condition). The country [words indistinct] wants an immediate end to this situation; it wants to live in happiness and peace [words indistinct]. The government is committed to ensuring the people's fundamental rights. In this context, irrespective of party affiliations, I appeal to all to allow us to accept the present reality. Let us resolve the current crisis through negotiations without further troubling the people and causing more damage to the country. The people expect much from politicians. Let us [words indistinct] fulfill their expectations.

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters, we place the interests of the country and the people above everything else. I hope that all political parties of the country will respond to my sincere call in this same spirit. May God help us all. May God take care of you. Long live Bangladesh.

Bangladesh: Opposition Rejects Prime Minister's Latest Offer

BK0303170996 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, March 3 (AFP) — The opposition late Sunday rejected Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's latest offer to end the country's crippling political crisis as police and demonstrators clashed in the capital.

In a statement the main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed rejected Zia's offer for talks saying it was a "ploy to legalise the February 15 general elections," boycotted by them and labelled as "seriously flawed" by independent observers. The BNP [Bangladesh National Party] won most of the 300 seats in the election.

"We believe in talks and peaceful settlement, and continue such endeavour ... but there cannot be any talks without any specifics," she said, adding Zia also failed to specify when the next elections would be held.

Wajed said that if Zia had understood public opinion and had been sincere about ending the crisis, she would have resigned immediately and cancelled the "farcical" elections.

In Dhaka witnesses said police fired tear gas to disperse activists from the main opposition Awami League who set off bombs, containing gunpowder and broken glass packed in tins, and damaged passing vehicles in several parts of the city.

In the southeastern port city of Chittagong, bombs were set off amid tightened security, but there were no immediate reports of clashes.

Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters also staged a march in Dhaka and in the port city hailing her televised speech to the nation in which she offered major concessions.

Zia agreed to opposition demands for a caretaker administration to oversee future general elections, immediate talks and elections "under a non-party government" as soon as possible.

In a nationally televised address, she invited her political rivals "to come to negotiations with an open mind immediately and discuss all the proposals and other related issues."

Wajed has been demanding that Zia must step down before any solution can be reached. Zia made three main proposals in a televised address Sunday night:

— A non-party government to function during all national elections. The government would take care of day-to-day administration, but not take policy decisions.

— A constitutional amendment to allow the special government would be moved in parliament and a referendum held as soon as possible.

— New parliamentary elections to be held as soon as possible.

The opposition has been fighting since March 1994 for elections to be held under a neutral caretaker administration. Opposition parties say free polls are impossible while Zia runs the country.

Elections on February 15 were boycotted by the opposition amidst widespread claims of fraud. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party won most of the 300 seats but Wajed insists the poll must be cancelled.

There have been at least 13 deaths in clashes between government and opposition supporters and between security forces and the opposition since the February 24 "non-cooperation campaign." The arrest of several opposition leaders has also increased tension.

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Zia's truce offer came ahead of the opposition's p'anned "non- stop non-cooperation" campaign [words indistinct] to unseat the government and force new elections.

The prime minister said her government had tried its best to bring all parties into last month's election and will pursue those efforts.

She warned that any solution might not be acceptable to all parties, but said that in the interest of the nation, "we are ready to accept any solutions, which will be most acceptable."

Before her speech Sunday, Zia had appeared determined to stand her ground. The BNP is to hold a rally for Zia in Dhaka on Wednesday to show it still has popular support and newly elected MP's are to be sworn in for parliament from Monday.

The Awami League, the Jatiya Party and fundamentalist Jamaat-e- Islami party have suspended their campaign, which began in March 1994, until Friday to allow a three-day Muslim religious assembly, the Biswa Ijtema, to go ahead from Monday.

India

India: Prime Minister Comments on 'Utter Failure' of NPT

BK0103132896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has categorically stated that India will not be found wanting in meeting the challenges posed by Pakistan's clandestine nuclear program. Mr. Narasimha Rao told the Rajya Sabha today that acquiring of material for nuclear technology by Pakistan is clear proof of the utter failure of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He said India has always maintained that the NPT is defective and will never work in its present form. Mr. Rao said that India has moved amendments at the Geneva conference on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as the ultimate goal is complete disarmament.

In his 70-minute reply to the debate on the motion of thanks to the president's address, the prime minister announced that a National Security Council will be set up within a short time. He said the council set up in 1990 was unwieldy and the government is considering various proposals. The opposition, excepting the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], staged a walkout, saying the reply did not touch upon issues like corruption and other security aspects.

India: Pakistani National Arrested in Delhi for Spying for ISI

BK0203161996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Army Intelligence Unit and the Special Cell of the Delhi police have arrested a Pakistani national who was allegedly spying for the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence]. According to police sources, he was involved in several incidents of attacks on army and paramilitary force convoys in the Kashmir valley.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that Pakistan's frequent unprovoked firings on our borders is, in fact, a manifestation of Islamabad's failure of its proxy war in Kashmir. He was addressing a public meeting at Abduniya village on the Indo-Pak border in the R.S. Pura sector today. He said the back of militancy has been broken and the state government is now considering holding of elections.

Meanwhile, two militants surrendered before the security forces in Kupwara District today. They also surrendered one machine gun, one rocket launcher, eight AK rifles, and a wireless set.

India: CBI To Report Only to High Court; Politicians Granted Bail

BK0103131196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court has ordered the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] not to report on the progress in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case to any authority other than the apex court itself. In a major development, the court directed the premier investigating agency that it shall not take any instructions or furnish any particulars of the case to any authority likely to be affected by the outcome of the probe into the issue. The direction was issued by three-judge bench of the court comprising Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, Mr. Justice S.P. Bharucha, and Mr. Justice S.C. Sen today.

Six politicians charge-sheeted in the hawala case today secured anticipatory bail. The former union ministers — Mr. Madhavbrao Scindia, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, and Mr. Yashwant Sinha — were granted bail by the Delhi High Court, while the two other former union ministers — Mr. V.C. Shukla and Mr. Arjun Singh — got anticipatory bail from the designated hawala court. The Delhi High Court judge, Mr. Justice Jaspal Singh, said the bail amounted 5,000 rupees each and a surety of an equal amount. The judge also directed the applicants not to leave the country without the permission of the high court. Mr. Pradip Singh Sehar, the grandson of Mr.

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Devi Lal, was also granted anticipatory bail by the high court.

In his application to the designated court, Mr. V.C. Shukla, who appeared in the court this morning, cited the anticipatory bail granted by the Delhi High Court yesterday to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani. Granting the bail, the special judge, Mr. V.B. Gupta, asked Mr. Shukla to furnish a personal bond for 10,000 rupees and a surety of an equal amount. The court also asked Mr. Shukla not to leave the country without informing it and asked him to surrender his passport to the CBI.

The designated court also granted bail to the breakaway Congress leader, Mr. Arjun Singh, and two officials of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. They also appeared in person before the special judge. The court asked them to furnish a personal bond of 10,000 rupees and a surety of a like amount.

Iran

Iran: Jerusalem Bomb Explosions Show Failure of 'Compromise'

LD0303124596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1112 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the Zionist regime was still suffering the adverse effects of the two bomb explosions last Sunday [25 February], another explosion rocked Jerusalem today. According to the latest reported figures, in today's explosion 20 died and a large number of people were injured. Last week's two explosions in Jerusalem and Ashqelon claimed 28 lives and injured about 80.

Today's explosion in Jerusalem took place exactly where last week's bomb exploded. Intense security measures were in force on this route following the earlier bombing. Nevertheless, these measures failed to stop another explosion. That is why observers believe the explosions in Jerusalem demonstrate the operational capabilities of combatant Palestinian groups. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has released a statement claiming responsibility for today's explosion.

Continuous bomb explosions in the occupied lands indicate that the objectives of the compromise process have failed to be implemented and the forecasts by the designers of the compromise have failed to materialize. Imagining that, through making a compromise with the PLO, the Zionist regime and America would be able to save the Zionist regime from the revolutionary wave of the intifadah, they concluded the compromise accord with 'Arafat. That accord not only failed to end the operations against the Zionist government, but also further strengthened the militant positions of combatant Palestinian groups by separating the compromising individuals from those groups.

The intensification of anti-Zionist operations by the Palestinian groups, on the one hand, and efforts made by the Zionist regime to confront those operations, on the other, have more than ever weakened the compromise process. After today's bomb explosion, Ezer Weizman, the head of the Zionist regime, immediately issued orders to end the talks between the Tel Aviv government and the self-rule administration. Political experts believe that the continuation of this trend can inflict heavy blows against the compromise plan.

Existing groups within the framework of the Zionist regime, while concerned over the activities by the combatant Palestinian groups, are trying to exploit the current conditions to overcome their Zionist rivals. Meanwhile the Likud Party is trying to improve its position in the coming Zionist regime's elections by accusing the Labor Party of failing to establish security in the occupied lands through its compromise plans and, thus, oust Peres.

Opinion polls after last week's bomb explosions indicate that Shim'on Peres's position has been severely damaged. If the Likud Party replaces the Labor Party, the compromise plan will face even further problems.

Iran: Commentary on Israel Warning to 'Arafat To Disarm 'Combatants'

LD0103141296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister of the Zionist regime, Shim'on Peres, announced on 29 February that as long the PLO leader does not approach the Palestinian combatants firmly, the Israeli forces will not pull back from al Khalil [Hebron] on the West Bank of the Jordan River. The aftermath of the recent anti-Zionist operations in Bayt al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] and Ashqelon regions on 25 February, the Zionist regime premier had given 'Arafat a warning, inviting him to take action in order to disarm and arrest Palestinian combatants. The warnings by Peres to 'Arafat come under conditions when the recent anti-Zionist operations in the occupied Palestine have been carried out outside the scope of the limited Palestinian self-rule and, in view of this issue, political observers hold that the remarks by made by Peres imply an attempt by the Zionist regime aimed at diverting the world's public opinion from the

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inabllity of the Zionist regime to avoid continued anti-Zionist operations in the regions under the Zionist control.

On the other hand, the Zionist regime attempts to pressurize 'Arafat and make him intensify his campaign against the combatant Palestinians groups and in this manner pursues its old policy of creating discord in the Palestinian groups.

Unfortunately, without paying due attention to the ill-intention of the Zionist regime, 'Arafat has embarked on arresting and disarming the combatant Palestinian group members and acts as a puppet in the hands of the occupiers of the holy al-Quds. No doubt 'Arafat's weak approach in the face of the Zionist regime threats once again reveals lack of authority and affiliation of the so-called self-rule of Palestine to the Zionist regime.

Political observers have evaluated the remarks made by Peres claiming that the Israeli forces will not pull out of al Khalil as a second attempt by the Zionist regime to continue its obstructionism in the way of the fulfillment of Taba, Gaza, and Ariha [Jericho] agreement. According to observers the remarks by the Zionist regime premier indicate this basic reality that conclusion of any agreement with the Zionist regime will enjoy no guarantee and effect and that the Zionist regime violates such agreements any time its interests so require. The lack of authority by the so-called self-rule and the very severe restriction imposed by the Zionist regime on the very limited activity of the self-rule under various pretexts is a clear example of this reality.

Iran: Paper on NATO 'Terrorist' Operations in Bosnia

NC0203213496 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Feb 96 p 16

[Political commentary: "America's First Terrorist Operations in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political circles close to the American NATO forces in Bosnia stated yesterday that they occupied a terrorist center in Fojnica, a city under Bosnian rule. These circles resorted to extensive propaganda to portray this base as a terrorist training camp where several foreign instructors, including three Iranians, are training Bosnian youths.

These operations took place several months after the Dayton peace pact engineers' efforts to put pressure on the Bosnian Muslim government to expel hundreds of Muslim mujahidin who have been sent there to help their coreligious brothers. The deadline for the expulsion of the Muslim guerrillas from Bosnia expired late last month. But Izetbegovic's government stated that as a gesture of gratitude for the Muslim combatants' devotion, they could remain in Bosnia as long as they wanted as Bosnian citizens.

But America opposes any type of presence by foreign Muslims in Bosnia. Western circles have also painted a negative picture of the Muslim mujahidin with their propaganda and have constantly tried to encourage the total expulsion of the resistance supporters from Bosnia. They have portrayed the Muslims as a major threat to peace, and often—when referring to snipers and ambushes by rebels—they have the Muslim mujahidin in mind. This is at a time when the Serbs and the Croats each have their own paramilitary pressure groups to affect the peace process and are training various groups.

After the NATO operations led by America, the Bosnian Interior Ministry stated that these operations were unacceptable. NATO forces, using helicopters and a 250-man group of special American forces, attacked Fojnica on the pretext that the city's training center was ready for terrorist operations against the multinational forces. The Bosnian Interior Ministry rejected this accusation and stated that this center was a special "anti-terrorism" training center of the Bosnian Interior Ministry, that it had been set up to identify and arrest aggressors, and that no preparations had been made for attacks on NATO forces. But America is looking for a pretext because the presence of Muslim combatants will keep the spirit of resistance alive in the heart of Europe. And the West wants a liberal Islamic government with very little strength and power in the region. Therefore, while the greatest threat comes from the Serb militia, 20,000 American forces are being trained to resist the nightmare of an attack by Muslim mujahidin.

Actually the West has made close relations with Bosnia contingent on the expulsion of combatant Muslims from it.

During the last days of NATO's deadline for the Bosnian Government, Western circles stated that the Bosnian Government's ability to meet the West's demands on the expulsion of Muslim combatants would be considered a test of the Muslim Bosnian Government's wish for close relations with the West. And when this demand was not met by Sarajevo, NATO occupied an anti-terrorist training base and 200 men in blatant violation of the national sovereignty and self-determination of the Bosnian Government. Apparently the Pentagon wants to directly undertake the plan to expel the combatant Muslims and it has been preparing to implement the plan since the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement in Paris. At that time—in Dey [month ending 20 January]—circles affiliated with the Pentagon stated that the expulsion of the combatant mujahidin could

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overcome one of NATO's major concerns! It expressed NATO's fear that the Muslim combatants would resort to terrorist! acts in order to display their dissatisfaction with the Western world.

A few days before the raid on the training center in Fojnica, America had placed its forces in Bosnia on alert on the pretext of possible operations by Muslim guerrillas, especially by one Muslim guerrilla who had come to Bosnia from America. But this decision actually led to the terrorist operations the American forces carried out under the pretext of fighting against terrorism. If the Sarajevo government fails to safeguard its sovereignty rights, in the future new definitions of terrorism will be used to threaten its national sovereignty.

Iran: Afghan President, Delegation Arrive for Talks

LD0303183096 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani arrived here this evening at the head of a ranking political, economic and educational delegation, and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Mehrabad airport.

Present at the airport were also Iranian Minister of Health 'Ali Reza Marandi, Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam-Reza Foruzesh and Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

Rabbani on his three day visit is being accompanied by Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Budget and Planning Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid, Minister of Higher and Vocational Education Mohammad Fazel, and other ranking officials such as the head of the Afghan radio and television and chancellor of Kabul University.

The aim of his visit is to discuss the strengthening of bilateral ties, the efforts to end the current crisis in Afghanistan, the regional and international situation, and expansion of economic cooperation.

President Rabbani's last visit to Iran was in March 1995 when he attended the inaugural ceremony of the Bafaq-Bandar Abbas railway project.

Iran: Rafsanjani Holds Talks With Visiting Afghan President

LD0303230696 Tehran IRNA in English 2240 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Afghan counterpart Borhanoddin Rabbani reviewed Tehran-Kabul cooperation and the latest regional developments particularly in Afghanistan in their first round of talks here tonight.

Rafsanjani said that talks between the two countries' officials were an effective step towards improvement of the situation and for restoring peace in Afghanistan.

"We believe that peace and stability is possible only through peaceful negotiations and respect for the rights of all ethnic groups and factions of Afghanistan," he added.

The mojahedin factions should cooperate with each other in order to foil foreign plots and to help reconstruct their country, said Rafsanjani, adding that Iran was ready to support their efforts.

Rabbani, who arrived in Tehran this evening, thanked the Islamic Republic for its friendly efforts, and said "the Afghan people will never forget the assistance rendered by Iran in their most trying and difficult times".

He briefed Rafsanjani on the latest developments back home and said that "only through cooperation and awareness the Afghan mojahedin can foil the foreign conspiracies to widen the rift between them."

Rabbani said that Afghanistan was in need of Iran's experience and expertise in the fields of education, health and economy.

Earlier tonight, Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi and Kabul Mayor Mohammad Ibrahim Waraschi held talks on cooperation in urban development projects.

Rabbani's high-ranking delegation includes the ministers of foreign affairs, budget and planning, higher and vocational educational, the head of the Afghan tv and radio, chancellor of Kabul university and several other senior officials.

Iran: Meetings With Afghan President, Delegation Viewed

NC0403091596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Mar 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first round of talks between the presidents of Iran and Afghanistan held last night, views were exchanged on the expansion of bilateral cooperation, and the latest developments in the region, especially the situation in Afghanistan. In this round of talks, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed support for talks between the two countries' officials and described this as an

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effective step toward improving and returning peace to Afghanistan.

In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's serious efforts to end conflicts and to establish peace and reconciliation among the jehadi groups, political observers believe that it is only through peaceful talks and acceptance by the conflicting factions of the right of all the groups to partake in the fate of Afghanistan that peace and tranquility can return. Actually the jehadi groups, which have recently chosen a political solution for cooperation, are striving to neutralize foreign plots and to jointly attempt to reorganize and manage Afghan affairs. Iran, which has always supported these efforts, is ready to use its experiences in economics, health, training, and reorganizing the war-stricken areas in Afghanistan.

Observers regard the three-day visit by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his delegation to Iran, the first leg of a regional tour of several countries, as significant. Undoubtedly the alertness of and the effective cooperation among the jehadi groups can return peace and stability to Afghanistan. The experiences gained from developments in recent years show that only the jehadi groups and the members of the Afghan nation can decide on their political fate and the future of their country.

Iran: Political Group Issues Statement on Elections

NC0303212796 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
25 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

["Text" of a statement issued by "Some Friends of the Islamic Republic Party" on 24 February; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the eve of the 18th spring of victory, the brave Muslim Iranian nation, which has responded to the unity-seeking and justice-seeking calls of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution and, with its proud participation in the marches on 22 Bahman [11 February—anniversary of the Islamic Revolution] and World Jerusalem Day, has carried out its duties to the utmost during the auspicious month of Ramadan, is now preparing for yet another important divine test and for more outstanding presence on the scene, this time in the form of elections for the Fifth Majles. [passage omitted]

This time, all the efforts of all the officials of the system have been mobilized to hold free and zealous elections; and all the religious and political groups of the country have joined in in one way or another to convey their views and stands to the people. We too consider ourselves to be indebted to our divine system and consider it necessary to inform the public of our views and stands, inspired by the auspicious spirit of the engineer and founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—and by the directives of the sagacious leader and son of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i— may his shadow be lengthened—and in support of the sagacious and brave steps by the great man of the struggle, the great leader of the reconstruction of Islamic Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Hashemi- Rafsanjani:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran was established under the slogan of independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic. It went through years of hardships in order to safeguard these three divine principles in the struggles against domestic and foreign enemies, and was able to emerge victoriously to stabilize the rule of the Imam's line and of the Hezbollah and to enter the phase of reconstruction and progress. Therefore, in this sensitive and vital phase, the objectives of development should be the continuation of this slogan and the fulfillment of the objectives stated in the Constitution. Under all circumstances social justice, the growth of Islamic virtues, and the dissemination of the basiji culture should be considered to be among the objectives of each development program. Economic programs to create welfare and to rid society of poverty and deprivation and the enforcement of the law should be considered to be among the major and most outstanding characteristics of the officials; and each and every member of society should enjoy legitimate and equal individual, political, and social rights under the law. Our foreign policy should be based on strength, wisdom, and expedience and be implemented on this basis. We believe that the Fifth Majles should observe these slogans in all its work.

2. The Fifth Majles should have deputies who are committed to Islam and who follow the Imam's line and are faithful to the Imam of the Ages. They should believe in genuine clericalism as the safeguard of Islam, serve the people, be brave and free spirited, investigate the truth and be free thinkers, be experts and principled people, be humble and justice-seeking, be devoted to the revolution, be conscientiousness in their jobs and have economic and social discipline, believe in social justice and strive to implement it so that, as stated by the late Imam—may his soul be sanctified—the dignity of this Majles in all the affairs of the country will be preserved. We stress that neglecting these special points will undoubtedly lead to irreparable damage to the revolution and the country. We believe that the Islamic Republic's system has prepared optimum conditions for participation by the people in the elections, participation by all strata, and that nothing but the votes of the people will determine the elections. Groups and individuals who set conditions for their presence or who unjustly

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set some limitations on their own or the people's participation should realize that the criterion for mass participation is the people's unity and that the objective is the victory of the people and of Islam, not just the presence and victory of a specific group.

3. We call on all the strata of the noble nation, especially on the academicians, scholars, and students, to actively join in the elections and, by electing candidates who meet the above criteria, ensure the health and strength of the Majles. The active participation of the esteemed clergymen of the constituencies, the Islamic societies, the local elders, and the religious delegations in each and every part of the country play a significant role in arousing the people's enthusiasm to participate and turn out for the elections and will ensure the order and the health of the elections. While expressing hopes for the Islamic ummah's divine success in this important endeavor, we call the attention of all to the epilogue of this statement, which is based on some remarks by the esteemed leader: The Majles is one of the greatest avenues by which the Islamic system moves to achieve its goals. The officials of the Islamic system should realize that with the outcome of elections that with the extensive participation, determination, and complete freedom of the people, the Islamic system can be confident that it is moving in the direction it wishes and promises. All of us together should help to elect a Majles consisting of forces that are committed to the revolution and to Islam and who will serve the people and thus fulfill the wish of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Some Friends of the Islamic Republic Party.

Iran: Majles Deputy—Kargozaran Should Form Proper Legal Party

LD0303190796 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Feb 96 pp 2-4

[Unattributed column: "On the Sidelines of the Roundtables": "We Are Not at All Opposed to the Legal Participation of the Servants of Construction in the Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We are not at all opposed to the legal participation of the Servants in the elections. According to our correspondent, this was announced 25 February by Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, deputy for Tehran and head of the Majles economic and finance committee, during a question and answer session organized by the students of the Sharif Industrial University. Mr. Behzad Nabavi, member of the Revolution's Mojahedin Organization [Sazman-e Mojaheddin-e Enqelab] also took part in this meeting.

Mr. Nabavi said: If 10 of the ministers and six of the deputy presidents were to form a party offering a specific constitution, no one could protest over their presence on the arena of political activity and the elections. But, what is objectionable is when the government's name and backing are used as a means to take part in the elections.

Engineer Nabavi said: Even though the words Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Majles are synonymous and the strength of one or the other is a source of glory for the sacred Islamic system, nevertheless, the status of one or the other should not be forgotten. He said: The Servants of Construction group say that the fifth Majles should be made up of those forces that obey the government and are subordinate to the president. This, however, is a dangerous idea.

He added: Why have some groups remained silent in the face of this dangerous idea, which negates the independence of the Majles and its deputies vis-a-vis the government?

Referring to the comments of one of the members of the Workers' House who had said that he would be proud to become a deputy for the government, engineer Nabavi said: Although the government is a good government, the pride lies in becoming the deputy of the people.

He added: Mr. Behzad Nabavi makes a joke of this new idea and the presence of the government in the legislative branch of the country. But do not forget that all this will be recorded and registered in history and will be judged by those who will come after us.

On the question of economic development accompanied by social justice, and withdrawal of charity donations and of aid from the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee, which Behzad Nabavi considered as factors that breed poverty, engineer Nabavi said: In spite of the fact that I do not think social justice could necessarily be brought about through donations, I should, nevertheless, emphasize the justness of this Koranic and Islamic principle. I believe that unless development is fully accompanied by social justice, some people cannot manage on their income alone and need these kinds of organizations to protect them. [passage omitted]

Behzad Nabavi had argued: we recognize the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the jurisprudent] within the framework of the constitution and believe that a system will only find strength and durability when the rule of law prevails in it. In the absence of this, we have to be subordinate to unrecognizable conditions [sentence as published]. In reply to this, Mr. Nabavi said: We consider that the legitimacy of the government is derived from the guardianship of the supreme jurispru-

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dent [velayat-e motlaqeh-e faqih] and that the authority of Islamic government is based on religious revelation, the fulfillment of which rests with the people. [passage omitted]

Regarding people's freedom in the system of the guardianship of the jurisconsult, Engineer Nabavi said: If freedom does not contradict Islamic values, it will always be respected and put to good use by people, and right now, there are no restrictions as far as freedom is concerned in our country. The existence of freedom of expression has given rise to the formation of different groups and numerous publications. But if what is meant by freedom is western freedom [azadi-ye gharbi], it will lead to nothing but promiscuousness. We are against that kind of freedom.

Engineer Morteza Nabavi referred to the ideological system and the specific boundaries of freedom in that system, specially the freedom of expression, under current circumstances. He said: The constitution is explicit about freedom of expression, especially with regard to the press for which special conditions have been envisaged. The existence of the screening team and open meetings to investigate press offences are among these special conditions.

He added: At the time when the Left faction dominated the government and the Majles [first to third Majles], whenever the RESALAT newspaper criticized the performance of the gentlemen, they used to repeatedly accuse us of being anti-government and anti-Imam [Khomeyni]. [passage omitted]

He continued: Now, if you were to compare the behavior of the fourth Majles toward the strongest criticisms which newspapers such as SALAM and ASR-E MA used to conduct against the government and Majles, you will see that the fourth Majles never behaved like this. He stressed: The fourth Majles has a more brilliant record of defending freedom of expression when compared with the third Majles. We have even criticized the formulation of a new press law and the closing down of some newspapers.

The deputy for Tehran pointed to the Left faction's support for freedom after this faction had been removed from the government, saying: In the past, when the Left faction dominated the universities, they would not allow us to enter the universities and talk with the students. Yet today, members of this faction are allowed to organize a variety of discussion events without any problems.

Engineer Nabavi said in connection with the establishment of relations with America: We have no need at all for relations with America because the aim of establishing this link is to humiliate the sacred system of the Islamic Republic.

He referred to the attention paid by the deputies of the fourth Majles to following the line of the Imam and obeying the leader and supporting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and pointed to the legislation and programs that demonstrated this. He said: The deputies of the fourth Majles who belonged mostly to the majority faction (Combatant Clergy Association), adopted the stance of: Neither east nor west, and rejection of foreign domination in its foreign policy. They accepted the restoration of relations with foreign countries on the basis of the interests and honor of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. And in economic issues, they tried to establish social justice along with efforts towards the expansion and economic affluence of the country.

He added: Regarding support for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, some people have confused the idea of support with that of obedience whereas if they were to look at the performance of the fourth Majles, they would realize that not only has the Majles strongly supported those government's good works but it has also fulfilled its supervisory role and its duties.

Iran: Daily Calls For Review of Rejected Candidates' Credentials

NC0203140596 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Feb 96 p 2

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution organization issued its fifth election statement objecting to the rejection of the credentials of a number of candidates for the Fifth Majles elections.

A section of their statement says:

The Islamic Republic of Iran's system, which has emerged from the most popular revolution in history, is based on the rights of the nation, and national sovereignty within the framework of the liberating ideology of Islam enshrined in the Constitution.

On the basis of these laws, the Muslim Iranian nation has attained its religious, human, and national rights which continue to evolve and crystallize in various forms. One of the most important of these rights—which denotes and ensures the will of the people and the right to decide their own destiny—is to elect representatives to the Islamic Majles.

From this perspective, this right, which affects the destiny of all, becomes an Islamic and national obligation and duty. It is obvious that every trend or group that

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tries to thwart the nation and sections of citizens from exercising their rights, including the right to elections, creates problems in the performance of this national and religious obligation. It also directly or indirectly casts doubts on the legitimacy of the elections, thus providing grist to the propaganda mills of the internal and external enemies of the revolution and system.

Another section of the statement is as follows:

The eligibility of candidates has been rejected—without providing any plausible reasons, written or verbal, even to the candidates themselves—and the disqualified candidates have been asked to file their complaints with adequate reasons to the supervisory committee. In other words, the principle of the rejection of qualifications has been imposed on candidates and they have been asked to prove their eligibility with reasons and arguments.

The active participation of the people and political groups in elections is only possible when conducive conditions are created, and a healthy trend and atmosphere are present in the elections arena without imposing any preferences and inclinations of any particular line or group in appraising the eligibility of the nominated candidates or their affiliations to any organization or the Islamic left.

Currently only in the city of Tehran the credentials of five candidates of the group of Muslim followers of the line of the imam (may God be pleased with him) have been rejected by the executive committees. This is at a time when, according to the law of approbatory supervision, some stages for confirming the final endorsement of other candidates are still not complete. The last stage will be completed only a day before the campaigning is due to begin officially. Hence, the candidates will not be able to obtain any reasons for the rejection of their credentials.

They will thus be deprived of the opportunity for preparing for their campaigning and will be in an unjust and inequitable position with regard to their rivals.

The statement of the organization continues:

In current circumstances, when just and equitable rivalry is being invalidated, it would be appropriate if the executive officials and institutions supervising the elections who intend to elicit the active and enthusiastic participation of the people were to keep the following points in mind:

1. The esteemed Guardians' Council as the body supervising the correctness of the elections should emphatically and firmly prevent the infiltration and induction of the elements affiliated to a special group, into the supervisory apparatus of the elections.

2. The supervisory bodies in the elections should confirm and announce the eligibility of those candidates who have been rejected for reasons of their political line by the executive committees and should inform the candidates of the reasons for their rejection, officially and in writing.

3. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council should immediately halt their unilateral publicity of one particular clique.

4. The esteemed president should investigate violations through the president's inquiry committee as he had promised earlier, and should prevent the continuation of publicity campaigns at least within the executive apparatus.

5. All candidates affiliated to the Muslim group of the followers of the imam's line, all over the country, should follow up all the legal channels and should protest the rejection of their credentials in a persistent manner and should rise up—within the confines of the law—against the imposing of the will and preferences of groups who are involved in the screening of qualifications so that, by doing so, they can ward off the ill- effects of indifference in society regarding election results.

Iran: Yazdi Delivers Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0103132296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0838 GMT 1 Mar 96

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I would like to speak about a number of different issues in this sermon. First is the address by the exalted leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, to the members of the Assembly of Experts [on 27 February]. He spoke about many important issues, notably his praise for the people, where he said that one cannot really thank our people enough. [passage omitted]

This praise is for your response to the political system and your participation in the 22d Bahman [11 February, revolution anniversary] and the al-Quds Day [16 February] rallies as well as in Id al-Fitr prayers [20 February]. A simple expression of gratitude will not do justice to your participation in all these occasions, especially given their coincidence with the holy month of Ramadan.

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However, we must remind ourselves that your efforts did not merely produce superficial results. What you did in fact proved the presence of unity, cohesion, and solidarity. It also showed that the Islamic state enjoys such a significant source of support.

In other words, you showed the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most popular system in the world. You showed the world propaganda organs that despite the existence of different tastes and preferences in some issues, when things boil down to the fundamentals of the Islamic Republic of Iran system and the general pillars of the state, then one sees that people from all walks of life join hands, appear on the arena, and form those huge congregations, which are in fact unique in the world.

This shows that the people want Islam and the Islamic political system. It shows that the people like this system and its officials. Minor differences in some issues will not mar unity and solidarity in major and fundamental issues.

The point should be remembered that what you did was in fact a practical response to all the internal and external enemies of the rule of the Islamic state. This in itself is the greatest source of support for the political system. [passage omitted]

Let me go on to my second topic, the elections. In the election issue, too, this very same presence of the people has a very important role to play. The people's presence in the elections will be viewed as support for the system. All the people should be present at the ballot boxes, all those who have the right to vote should do so. I noticed recently that someone had mentioned that it would be good to take your children along when you go to vote so that they become familiar with this religious and political process, as we do when we go to the mosque or prayers. It is good to take your children to the mosque so that they become familiar with social and communal prayers. Well, I should like to add that those who have the right to vote have no excuse, they must vote.

At this stage, there are two issues that should be considered. One of them is openness, and I have already talked about this. Over 5,000 people came forward as candidates. Of course, this is not the right place for this discussion. In future, Majles deputies should examine reforms to the election law. Is it worth spending so much time for the registration of candidates? Or for assessing their eligibility; supervising the elections; looking into complaints? Should the stage be so open that for example, as I have said, when someone cannot even fill the relevant form properly, or when his previous employment was so low — I don't want to be offensive to any nature of work — should that individual be allowed to register himself and go through all those stages? This is a separate issue and the law should address this.

However, the fact remains that over 5,000 people registered themselves as candidates. And the executive election bodies in the center and throughout the country approved the candidacy of over 3,200 of them. Naturally, a number of people have complaints about this procedure. All complaints will be seen to and examined. The honorable Guardian Council, in this very short period, undertook a difficult task and carried out its duty. We all witnessed the start of the election campaign yesterday.

That much for the officials' responsibilities, which, in our view, they have carried out very well.

One of the issues remaining is the issue of election campaigns and the observance of the law and ethical principle in them. The country's senior authorities have time and again advised — and I also reiterate — that those who have become election candidates or support the candidates must first and foremost meticulously observe the law in their campaigns. A person who seeks to enter the center of legislations cannot disregard the law at the beginning of his campaign. The person disregarding the law in the initial stages of his work brings his suitability under doubt. [passage omitted]

What has been strenuously commended by the officials, particularly by the exalted leader [Khamene'i], is the observance of the ethical aspect in the election campaigns. [passage omitted]

The last point in this debate is the duty of the supervisory organs and the judiciary. These duties have often been mentioned in the past, but I will repeat them again.

We have told all our colleagues in the judiciary to be ready for all cases of, God forbid, complaints about possible offenses. [passage omitted]

We hope that at the end of the elections, the statistics will show that very few cases have actually been referred to the judiciary. [passage omitted]

There are two judicial issues to which I shall refer to very briefly. One is the acceptance of the appeal of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the International Court at The Hague concerning the crime that America committed in [the 1988] downing of our passenger aircraft in the Persian Gulf, thereby killing our innocent people. Our appeal was accepted at the court, and America has been condemned.

The second issue is addressed to the judicial officials at The Hague. Although not all the Serbs accused are under your jurisdiction, let me tell you this: even if not

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all the Islamic ummah are looking at your court, at least all the legal experts of the Islamic world are looking to see what this court does with the Serb war criminals. Will the court be affected by political matters, under the influence of big political powers, or will the criminals really be punished? Didn't we here about mass graves and other crimes committed by those accused today? Some of them are not under the jurisdiction of the court.

Let me say this to those who have jurisdiction over the accused: You must place them under the jurisdiction of the court and sooner or later Interpol should help. They must be handed over to the court. The court, for its part, should give due consideration to these cases.

You have heard about the summons issued to Mr. Louis Farrakhan, who had come to Iran and visited a number of countries in the region, to the U.S. Congress. On this, one can only say that this was the simplest reaction that America showed in response to his remarks in Iran during his Jerusalem Day [16 February] address. In any case, the U.S. committee concerned with foreign affairs wants to tell him off, probably, by asking: Why did you say those things in Iran? Why did you go to this or that country in the region? These are the guys who support human rights and they are the ones who are limiting the rights of human beings to this extent. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Pakistan: Iranian Minister Apprised of Indian 'Threat' in Region

BK0303152996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister (M. Sarmadi) held talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad today. They reviewed progress achieved thus far in laying a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan and in constructing a Pakistan-Iran oil refinery near Karachi.

The situation prevailing in Afghanistan, with particular reference to efforts being made to establish lasting peace in that country, also came under discussion.

The Pakistani side apprised the Iranian official of the regional security and the threat posed to it in the face of the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir issue, as well as the arms race initiated by India.

Pakistan: Editorial Criticizes U.S. Ambassador's Suggestions

BK0203142696 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 1 Mar 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan-U.S. Relations — Peculiar Nature of the U.S. Friendship!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing a gathering in Lahore, Thomas W. Simons, Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, said that the United States considers Pakistan an important global partner and desires to further consolidate this partnership by increasing trade and investment in the private sector. By signing the Brown Amendment on 26 January, the U.S. President has marked the beginning of a new era of U.S.-Pakistan relations, but Pakistan still needs to do a lot to meet the expectations of the U.S. businessmen and investors. The things that Pakistan needs to pay attention to include eliminating corruption, ensuring transparency and increasing the role of the private sector, reducing government restrictions, ending the exploitation of child labor, and expanding regional trade.

The American ambassador has made tall claims about the U.S. policies. He has reproached Pakistan under the garb of offering various suggestions and tried to prove that trade with India can be a means for the settlement of regional disputes. The U.S. ambassador has also made it clear that the United States now pursues the policy of promoting ties between the private sectors of the two countries instead of expanding the government-to-government relationship.

The U.S. ambassador's suggestions would have been appreciated had any one of them been correct, based on facts, and beneficial for Pakistan. The question is: How far is this critical review and comment on Pakistan's internal situation permissible under diplomatic conventions? The U.S. ambassador is duty-bound to give an answer to this question. In the meantime, the ambassador should also enlighten us as to why the United States does not openly trade with Iraq, Iran, Libya, and China if, according to him, bilateral trade can help in resolving bilateral disputes. Why is Washington in favor of trade and economic sanctions against these countries? Why can't the United States use the formula, which is considered to be very effective in resolving Pakistani-Indian disputes, for its own purposes? Washington can initially use this formula in resolving its disputes with its closest neighbor, Cuba, to set an example to be emulated by other countries. Moreover, Pakistan is not the only country that is located in this region. There are other countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, and all of Central Asia in this region, too. Why didn't the ambassador suggest boosting trade with these countries?

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The U.S. ambassador has objected to child labor in Pakistan. In this context, he has warned that the United States will enforce its law under which trade transactions with any country involved in exploiting child labor can be terminated. Is the boycott of trade with Pakistan going to be the first step in the new era — about which the U.S. ambassador has given the good news — of U.S.-Pakistani relations? Pakistan is already being punished for this "crime." Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is on record as saying that Islamabad has a trade deficit of $15 billion only because of the trade restrictions on Pakistani carpets.

In fact, the real nature and direction of the Pakistani-U.S. relationship in the 1990's for the United States is that Pakistan, like the Third World and some other Muslim countries, should be forced into accepting the dictates of the new economic imperialism. If the U.S. ambassador were to cast aside his sentimentalism, he could be convinced that Pakistan is neither fond of exploiting child labor nor does it take pride in depriving its children of education. Pakistan, too, views the child labor situation with regret. However, in a country where there are no funds for promotion of education and a child has no other choice but to work hard from his early childhood to feed his family, any U.S. idea of imposing restrictions compatible with its own social standards cannot be said to be fair. In fact, the United States, being the sole superpower in the world after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, is trying to impose its will on others under the vanity of being the policeman of the new world order. The Third World, especially the Muslim countries, should play a decisive role at this juncture and instead of being the U.S. menials, they should play their role in international affairs to keep the power equilibrium from being disturbed. Of course, the United States is a big country. Its political and economic importance is globally accepted. Pakistan has neither incurred U.S. enmity in the past nor does it favor doing so in the future, but the United States, too, claims to cherish its friendship with Pakistan. If that is the case, then Washington should respect international principles of bilateral friendship instead of adopting the authoritarian tone and style of a mighty viceroy.

Pakistan: India Warned Against Building Fence on Jammu Border

BK0303114296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali stated that Pakistan has taken serious notice of attempts by Indian authorities to build a fence along Jammu Line of Control. Talking to reporters in Lahore last night, he said India has been told that Pakistan would not let this happen at any cost. He said some areas of occupied Jammu touches Pakistan's international boundary where India is making efforts to erect the fencing. Since any attempt to change the border status between occupied Kashmir, Pakistan, and Azad Kashmir is in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, India could not be allowed to do so.

Pakistan: Indian Force Shoots 'Without Any Provocation' in Jammu Region

BK0203144196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense said in Rawalpindi today that Indian Border Security Force's personnel early this morning tried to violate the status of the working boundary in Jammu-Sialkot area by resorting to unprovoked firing on Pakistan Rangers. The spokesman said the Indians opened fire without any provocation at 1000 on Pakistan Rangers, which led to intermittent machine gun firing between the two border security forces. The firing continued till 1430. There were no casualties on our side, the spokesman said.

Pakistan: Commentary Decries Indian Violation of Working Boundary

BK0403030796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Unprovoked and sporadic firing across the Line of Control between Azad Kashmir and parts of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir now under Indian military control is a more or less usual and one-sided affair. It is always from the Indian side. Another constant factor in this drama is that this kind of action never starts from the Azad Kashmir side. In certain days and weeks this kind of activity becomes more than usual. It is not always clear what causes the ebs and tide in the firing across the Line of Control from Indian side. It can only be surmised that the pressure from the freedom fighters inside occupied parts of the state usually oblige Indian troops in occupied Kashmir to turn their guns to the target in Azad Kashmir across the Line of Control. Indian firing on Azad Kashmir can be a diversionary tactic although it is far from clear what tangible gains the Indian military commanders in occupied Jammu and Kashmir have ever been able to secure. In the end there is no change in the situation to the advantage of India.

The firing by Indian troops across Line of Control that started early on Saturday morning provided a variation from the established pattern. There is no means of

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knowing what exactly the Indian military authorities in occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir were waiting to communicate to the marks of their guns. It is sharply noted by observers in Pakistan that this time the sector which was selected for this unprovoked action across the Line of Control lies perilously close to the established international border. The status of the Line of Control in the divided state of Jammu and Kashmir is quite different from that of established border between two sovereign states. This action has come from the southern parts of the Jammu and Kashmir state. To be precise, it took place in the extreme south of the Jammu part of the states. This factor enlists this firing incident with more than usual seriousness.

In Islamabad, this point has not gone unnoticed. Spokesmen in Islamabad have lost no time in pointing out that the firing incident had been very close to the international border in the vicinity of the city of Sialkot, which is a major industrial and cultural center. It is also a major cantonment. All these factors are, of course, fully known to India. It is only reasonable to expect that the authorities in New Delhi are not oblivious of the possible implications of starting wholly unprovoked firing across, that is, for all practical purposes, recognized international border. It is only reasonable to link this incident with the declared policy of India to set up barbed wire fence across the Line of Control in the disputed state. May be the Saturday's inexplicable activity has something to do with the barbed wire fencing project.

Whatever be the local considerations from India's point of view, it may be a trifle move to separate this kind of provocative across the border activity from India's domestic political developments. Several prominent members of the ruling Congress-I party of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's government are deeply implicated in a big bribe scandal. Some have had to resign from their high positions in the government as well as in the party hierarchy. There is a right royal political crisis raging in India and the general elections are not very far away. In situations where the governments in New Delhi find themselves in rather hot waters, it is not unusual to start flogging their [word indistinct] whipping boy, Pakistan. But altogether the firing across the border significantly close to the established border, the pressure of the mojahedin inside occupied Kashmir, and the political crisis in Indian domestic politics make up a combination of factors which may lie behind the across the border firing last Saturday morning. Whatever be the motivation, it is not good for the peace of the subcontinent.

Pakistan: Bhutto Discusses Terrorism, Nuclear Issue, Kashmir

NC0203081096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated that her country's longstanding relations with Egypt are based on firm historical facts that cannot be undermined by any incident whatsoever.

In an interview with the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM published Saturday [24 February], Bhutto said that the recent meeting of the Egyptian-Pakistani joint ministerial committee, which produced several important agreements, demonstrated the importance that Pakistan attaches to the growth of its fraternal ties with Egypt.

She added that the attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad proved the need for international cooperation and coordination to fight terrorism with all available means.

Bhutto reiterated her view that Pakistan is a victim of terrorism and said that her government is fully committed to fighting terrorism wherever it occurs.

She told AKHBAR AL-YAWM that Pakistan's nuclear program will not be halted because it is a peaceful program that is designed to promote Pakistan's economic and social development.

Concerning her country's dispute with India over Kashmir, the Pakistani prime minister said that Pakistan believes the only solution is to grant the people of this state self-determination and to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiations in accordance with UN resolutions.

Bhutto said she hopes that peace and stability will be restored to Afghanistan through the formation of a broad-based government representing all ethnic factions and population groups in that country.

Bhutto pointed out that she has not abandoned her plans to visit Palestine and will do so at the appropriate time. She emphasized that Pakistan will continue to back the Palestinians until they attain their objectives.

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Pakistan: Government Defends Antinarcotics Efforts

BK0403114296 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Mar 96 p 12

[Report by Mariana Baabar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The government Monday defended its anti-narcotics efforts in response to Friday's criticism by the United States.

The U.S. had found Pakistan wanting in counter-narcotics efforts and had listed three main shortcomings:

— No progress in expanding the anti-narcotics force (ANF).

— Legislation against money laundering had yet to be written.

— The government had not converted into law the comprehensive drug ordinance.

"Recruitment is in process and the ANF will be recruiting 2,500 people from all over the country in various grades. Hopefully, by the end of this year, this expansion would be complete," says Brigadier Aslam of the ANF, now under a new head after the promotion of its previous DG [Director General], Lt General Salahuddin Tirmizi.

Brig Aslam was not ready to disclose the sum which would be required to expand the ANF, a move which in the past had been stalled because of financial restraints. Also, 94 officials of the defunct PNCB [Pakistan Narcotics Control Board] had opted against working in the ANF, which had created impediments in expansion.

"The jobs will be advertised publicly and selection will be done in phases. The plans have been fully worked out," Aslam added.

Meanwhile, law minister Raza Rabbani said that even though the anti-narco ordinance of 1996 had not passed all stages of legislation, it had been successful in strengthening institutional arrangements for checking drug trafficking. "It is very well drafted. Even the Dublin group has greatly appreciated this ordinance," Rabbani explained.

"Even in the form of an ordinance it has been very effective in confiscating property of drug barons, even of those who are abroad. At the moment the standing committee of the lower house is examining the bill and in the coming sessions of the National Assembly, we will bring it up so that it becomes law."

The ordinance pertains to the constitution of the anti-narcotics task force and measures to deal with illegal entrants engaged in such business.

Under the ordinance, punishment for the people involved in drugs would be five year imprisonment in addition to punitive fines.

Last month the ANF had frozen assets and properties of drug barons Haji Ayub Khan Afridi, Anwar Khan Khattak, Ashraf Rana, Dawood Jat and Amir Ali Moosa amounting to Rs [rupees] 1069 million and their cases were pending in the court.

Pakistan: Kashmiri Leaders Vow To Continue Struggle, Oppose Elections

BK0203101496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone, the chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference and a senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC], has reiterated the Kashmiri people's determination to continue their struggle until freedom is achieved. He said India wants to eliminate the Kashmiri leadership through its agents, but such attacks cannot weaken the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom. In a telephone interview with our Muzaffarabad correspondent from Srinagar yesterday evening, Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone said the Indian Government has been harassing the APHC leaders to legitimize its illegal hold over occupied Kashmir. The Kashmiri leader said the people of occupied Kashmir are united under the banner of the APHC and will not allow anybody to sabotage the struggle they have been waging and for which thousands of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives.

Referring to the Indian president's statement in parliament about the holding of elections in occupied Kashmir, Ghani Lone categorically stated that elections in occupied Kashmir are not possible in view of the prevailing situation there. The Kashmiris are firmly determined to boycott these elections. However, he expressed his concern that India might use its forces deployed in held Kashmir to cast votes in the name of the Kashmiris.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the former chief minister of occupied Kashmir, has said the conditions in the held valley are not suitable for holding elections as Indian troops are killing about 30 innocent people daily. In an interview, he said his party will boycott the proposed elections in the prevailing circumstances. Rejecting the package announced by the Indian prime minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said there is nothing in the package for the solution of the Kashmir dispute. He further said that India has lost control of Kashmir.

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Pakistan: Sindh Chief Says Government Authority Restored in Karachi

BK0203145896 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has said the policy adopted by the government to resolve the Karachi situation has proved fruitful. Talking to PTV correspondent M.Z. Sohail in Abbottabad today, Syed Abdullah Shah said the situation in the city has improved a lot, and the state of terrorism has come to an end. The enthusiasm shown by the people during the World Cup [cricket] match in Karachi is a clear expression that they are no more terrorized. They came to witness the match and thoroughly enjoyed it. The steps taken by the government to improve the situation in Karachi would not have been successful without the people's participation as no government can achieve results without their cooperation. The Sindh chief minister said with the passage of time, government's authority has been restored. He hoped the Altaf Group leadership will adopt a positive attitude to resolve the issue. They should understand that problems cannot be resolved through terrorism. The correct way to iron out differences and settle issues is to hold talks.

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